FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 MARCH 1984

20 March Middle East & South Asia Review

Israel

The TAMI leadership has submitted a draft resolution to the Knesset Secretariat to dissolve the Knesset and hold early elections, IDF Radio announced on 20 March. The Knesset Presidium is now in session to finalize a date for debating and voting on these motions, Jerusalem radio added. According to Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, this vote will take place on 22 March, the radio reported. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir also is holding meetings with Likud ministers and coalition leaders to discuss early Knesset elections, the radio noted. According to one minister at these meetings, the main decision to hold the elections already has been made and it is only their date that must be decided. Meanwhile, the Alignment faction's Executive has decided that the elections should be held on 22 May, Jerusalem radio announced.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shamir had expressed his opposition to early elections in the belief that "great damage" would be caused to present efforts to stabilize the economy, Jerusalem television reported. In the prime minister's opinion, elections at this time would preclude a recovery of the economy for "at least the next 6 months."

Sudan

AWACS — The United States has agreed to supply Egypt with "one or more" AWACS planes, MENA reported on 19 March. However, a spokesman for the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, in a statement carried by JANA on 19 March, warned that should such planes be used to facilitate, cover, or protect an "aggression" against Libya, the Libyan Air Force is capable of reaching and "destroying them." The Omdurman bombing incident took place with U.S. "knowledge and encouragement" to find an "excuse" to force Egypt and Sudan to "allow U.S. strategic spying," the statement added. By seeking U.S. assistance, the "incompetence" of the Egyptian and Sudanese regimes to defend themselves is "fully exposed." In this regard, the "agents" in Egypt and Sudan are reminded of the "utter failure" of the United States to protect such people as the shah of Iran and Egypt's Anwar as-Sadat, the statement concluded.

Further Developments — Sudan has requested an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the "Libyan aggression" against Sudan, SUNA announced. Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, in remarks cited by MENA, said that the recent Libyan action against Sudan was characterized by "stupidity and adventurism." Nevertheless, the incident must be put in the "right perspective" and not given "any more significance than it deserves." The minister urged "fraternal states" to transform their condemnation into a collective response and warned those who contrive such plots that any attempt to repeat them will be met "in kind."

Meanwhile, Egyptian forces have already taken up positions in Sudan, JANA reported on 20 March, citing Egypt's *AL-AHRAM*. According to JANA, this military move is "tantamount to an official declaration of occupation of Sudan." Libya calls on the world to check these "occupation forces" which not only threaten the Sudanese people, but also are being used to "threaten and provoke" Libya.

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil adjourned the 19 March session of the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne when conferees failed to approve a Lebanese-Saudi-Syrian working paper, Beirut radio reported. "Intensive contacts" and meetings are to take place on 20 March to eliminate obstacles and to achieve a common ground on the disputed subjects, particularly differences of opinion regarding the powers allotted to the president and the prime minister, the radio added. According to the Progressive Socialist Party's clandestine Voice of the Mountain Radio, it was former President Sulayman Franjiyah, supported by former President Camille Sham'un, who had "strongly objected to any encroachment" on presidential powers and enhancing the powers of the prime minister. A "source taking part in the session" told clandestine Radio Free Lebanon that the powers of the prime minister as delineated by the working paper "equal if not exceed" those of the president. Franjiyah also stated that the National Salvation Front "no longer exists" because of differences among its members due to "intransigent stands on basic proposals and nonadherence of the front's members to what was agreed upon in Damascus," Beirut Voice of Lebanon reported.

In other developments, the Security Arrangements Committee failed to meet on 19 March when representatives could not agree on a meeting place, Beirut radio stated. Meanwhile, clashes across the contact lines in Beirut are continuing, the radio reported. According to information received by Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio, "Palestinian groups" ranging from 150 to 200 men arrived in the Sabra and Shatila areas equipped with artillery and rockets on 19 March. Preparations to deploy these men along the contact lines are now being made, the radio added.

Iran-Iraq War

Exchanges of sporadic artillery and heavy weapons fire continued along all fronts, according to the military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 19 March. Iranian forces also continued to reinforce, strengthen, and consolidate positions in the Khaybar operational sector, the communique added. An Iraqi military communique for 19 March carried by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported raids against Iranian units in the area east of Basra and in the east Tigris operational region.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in remarks cited by Tehran radio, denied reports that Iran had received weapons shipments from the "Zionist regime." Such allegations are a "conspiracy against our nation," he stated.

In a separate development, a Norwegian Foreign Ministry official arrested 2 months ago for being a Soviet spy, has admitted to having worked for "Iraqi intelligence," AFP reported.

Iraqi-Jordanian Relations

Iraq and Jordan signed an agreement fixing and demarcating the international borders between them, INA reported on 19 March. Two protocols also were signed which organize the border authorities and delineate transporation and the use of water and grazing land in the common border areas, INA added.

Afghanistan

The Soviets have deployed a "large number" of Cuban troops to fight against the Afghan mujahidin, SPA reported citing remarks by a "prominent Afghan leader" as quoted by Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 055 *20 March 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO's 'Abbas on USSR Relations, Other Topics *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 1
SAWT ASH-SHA'B Interviews PLO's Al-Wazir *[18 Mar]* ..... A 3
PFLP-GC Issues Statement Denouncing Jordan *[SANA]* ..... A 4

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Press Views Motives Behind Omdurman Bombing ..... C 1
AR-RAY' AL-'AMM Assails Reagan on Jordan *[15 Mar]* ..... C 1
ARAB TIMES on Iran's Goal of 'Expansionism' *[15 Mar]* ..... C 1
Defense Minister Says New Units To Join Navy *[AL-QABAS]* ..... C 2
Turkish Antiterrorist Experts Begin Visit *[AL-QABAS]* ..... C 2
Assembly Official Opposes Constitution Changes *[ARAB TIMES 17 Mar]* ..... C 2

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-JAZIRAH Scores U.S. Double Standards *[9 Mar]* ..... C 2

UAE

Press Hails Husayn Remarks on U.S. Role ..... C 3
AL-ITTIHAD — 16 Mar ..... C 3
KHALEEJ TIMES — 18 Mar ..... C 3
AL-BAYAN Denounces Plots Against Sudan *[17 Mar]* ..... C 4
Press Views U.S. Role in Omdurman Raid ..... C 4

YAR

Foreign Minister Returns From Baghdad Meeting ..... C 4

EGYPT

Egypt To Receive AWACS, Other Planes From U.S. ..... D 1
Husayn, Mubarak Hold Phone Consultation ..... D 1
U.S. Urged To Ponder King Husayn's Statements ..... D 1
People's Assembly Committee Condemns Raid ..... D 1
'Ali Delivers Statement ..... D 1
Mubarak Meets Senior Army Officers 19 Mar ..... D 2
Mubarak Meets With Indian Envoy On Gulf War ..... D 2
Ni Zhifu, Leads PRC Trade Union Group Visit ..... D 2
Received by Mubarak ..... D 2
Meets Prime Minister ..... D 2
Holds News Conference ..... D 2
Departs Cairo 20 March ..... D 3
Bangladesh Foreign Minister Doha Continues Visit ..... D 3
Meets With Mubarak ..... D 3
Holds Talks With 'Ali ..... D 3
Joint Statement Issued ..... D 4
Doha Departs 17 March ..... D 4

Sudanese Information Minister Salihin Departs Cairo ..... D 4
Butrus Ghali Meets With French Minister Cheysson *[cross-reference]* ..... D 4

IRAQ

Armed Forces Issues Communique No 1,409 — 19 March ..... E 1
Two Border Agreements Signed With Jordan ..... E 1
President Meets USSR's Ryabov on Economic Ties ..... E 1
Ryabov, Delegation Depart 19 Mar ..... E 1
Radio Correspondent Visits Industrial Complex *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... E 1
Israel Provides Iran With Arms, Equipment ..... E 2
Tariq 'Aziz Confers With Bangladesh Counterpart ..... E 2
Ramadan, Doha Meet ..... E 2
Doha Leaves for Baghdad ..... E 2
National Assembly Speaker Receives British Delegation ..... E 2
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Hungary ..... E 3
Ramadan Receives Somali Official 17 Mar ..... E 3
Ramadan Receives Letter From France's Mauroy ..... E 3
Soviet Friendship Society Celebrates Anniversary ..... E 3
Baghdad Celebration Held ..... E 4

JORDAN

King Husayn Gives Interview to CBS Television ..... F 1
Comment Supports Husayn, Decries U.S. Role ..... F 4
Principles Reasserted *[AD-DUSTUR 19 Mar]* ..... F 4
U.S. 'Slave' to Zionism *[AD-DUSTUR 19 Mar]* ..... F 4
International Solution Needed *[SAWT ASH-SHA'B 19 Mar]* ..... F 5
U.S. 'Source' of Arab Region Woes, Disasters *[AR-RAY 19 Mar]* ..... F 5
'Ubaydat Stresses Arab Unity, Understanding *[AR'RAY 20 Mar]* ..... F 6
UN's Brian Urquhart Leaves Amman 19 Mar *[AR'RAY 20 Mar]* ..... F 7
King Husayn Cables Numayri on Libyan Air Raid ..... F 7

LEBANON

Further Reportage on Dialogue Conference ..... G 1
Disagreement Ends Session Early ..... G 1
Franjiyah, Karami Positions Conflict *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... G 1
Franjiyah Position Criticized *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... G 1
Conflict Over President's Powers *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 1
New Syrian Proposals Reported ..... G 2
Further Meetings Planned ..... G 2
Agreement on Working Paper ..... G 2
RFL Reviews Working Paper ..... G 2
Earlier Progress Reported ..... G 3
AFP Views Conference Developments ..... G 3
Salvation Front Called Dead ..... G 3
Syria's Khaddam, Birri Confer ..... G 4
Franjiyah Comments on Conference Differences *[WAKH]* ..... G 4
Junblatt Comments on Dialogue Conference Talks *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... G 4
Camille Sham'un Views Conference Prospects *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 16 Mar]* ..... G 5
L'HUMANITE Interviews Amal Leader Birri *[15 Mar]* ..... G 5
Cease-Fire Security Committee Fails To Meet 19 Mar ..... G 6
Junblatt Expects Flareup, Criticizes Sunnites *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 6
Views Druze-Israeli Relations *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 6
Clashes Continue Across Green Line in Beirut ..... G 7
Palestinian Gunmen Said To Arrive in Beirut Camps ..... G 7
Late Report: Junblatt Announces Collapse of Talks ..... G 7
Plans To Depart Lausanne *[KUNA]* ..... G 7
Syria's Khaddam To Leave ..... G 7

SYRIA

Vice Presidents Receive USSR Congratulatory Cables ..... H 1
Judiciary Agreement Signed With Soviet Union ..... H 1
Withdrawal of Soviet Advisers Reportedly Discussed *[AL-HADAF 16 Mar]* ..... H 1
TISHRIN Says Lausanne's Success Only Way Out ..... H 1
Commentary Criticizes Arab Support For U.S. Policy ..... H 1
TISHRIN Views Recent Statements by Husayn ..... H 2
U.S. Reaction Viewed ..... H 2
Damascus Cites Libyan Denial of Sudanese Bombing ..... H 3
Damascus Reports U.S. Sending AWACS to Mideast ..... H 3

ISRAEL

Reportage on TAMI Move for Early Elections ..... I 1
Motion To Dissolve Knesset ..... I 1
Plenary Debate 22 March ..... I 1
Coalition Calls for Elections ..... I 1
Shamir Opposed to Call ..... I 2
MK Berman To Support Call ..... I 2
Likud Divided on Elections ..... I 3
Peres: 'No Other Choice' ..... I 4
Moda'i, Ne'eman Oppose Move ..... I 5
Peres Expects Dissolution Vote Thursday ..... I 5
Burg, Ministry Official on Election Preparations ..... I 5
Weizman To Form New 'Center List' for Elections ..... I 5
Short Cabinet Session Ends; Elections Not Discussed ..... I 5
Hammer: NRP Supports Decision ..... I 5
Alignment Wants Early Elections on 22 May ..... I 5
Deliberations on Elections Reported ..... I 6
Alignment Moves To Change Election Procedures ..... I 6
Speaker To Announce Decision on Recess 26 March ..... I 6
One Knesset Member To Return From Argentina ..... I 6
Explanation Offered for TAMI's Early Election Call ..... I 6
Shamir Meets UN Under Secretary Urquhart ..... I 7
Comments on Lausanne Talks ..... I 7
Shamir on Husayn Statements ..... I 7
Further on Urquhart Meeting ..... I 7
Arens Sees No UNIFIL Role in South Lebanon ..... I 7
IDF Soldier Killed in Southern Lebanon 19 March ..... I 8
Contacts in Lausanne With Syria Reportedly Under Way *[MA'ARIV 19 Mar]* ..... I 8
Israeli Officials Reported Present in Lausanne *[HADASHOT 19 Mar]* ..... I 8
No Withdrawal, Redeployment Decisions Now ..... I 9
Ambassador Sason Meets With 'Ali in Cairo *[MA'ARIV 18 Mar]* ..... I 9
Egypt's Ghali, Sason on Relations, Peace ..... I 9

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Foreign Minister To Visit Syria, Saudi Arabia ..... Q 1

LIBYA

Air Force 'Capable of Destroying' U.S. AWACS ..... Q 1
Numayri Account of Bombing Incident Ridiculed ..... Q 1
Mubarak's Position on Sudan Considered 'Shameful' ..... Q 2
Foreign Liaison Secretary, UN Chief Discuss Sudan ..... Q 2
Egyptian 'Occupation' Forces in Sudan Condemned ..... Q 3
Convoy Said Attacked in S. Chad; 6 Sudanese Killed ..... Q 3

Students in Tripoli Condemn UK 'Wave of Terror' ..... Q 3

MAURITANIA

Haydala Cables King Fahd on Recognition of SDAR ..... Q 4
Haydala Receives Message From SDAR President ..... Q 4
Authorities Blame Libya for Student Unrest ..... Q 5

MOROCCO

Saudi King's Refusal To See Mauritanian Lauded ..... Q 5
Sudanese Minister Arrives, Notes 'Privileged' Ties ..... Q 5

SUDAN

Libyan Pilots in Omdurman Bombing Raid Identified ..... Q 6
Further Reaction to Bombing Raid in Omdurman ..... Q 6
Salihin: Radio Station Unsilenced ..... Q 6
Madani Briefs Diplomats ..... Q 6
Ambassador Sees UN Head ..... Q 6
General Assesses Raid, Damage ..... Q 7
Reportage on 'Arafat Meetings, Addresses in Khartoum ..... Q 7
Press Conference Held ..... Q 7
'Arafat Addresses People's Assembly ..... Q 8
PLO-Sudanese Ties Reaffirmed ..... Q 9
'Arafat Departs 20 Mar ..... Q 9

TUNISIA

Mzali Delivers Bourguiba Statement on 3 Jan Riots ..... Q 9
National Assembly Approves New Taxes, Import Levies ..... Q 10
Ministry Source Denies Essebsi, 'Ali To Meet *[QNA]* ..... Q 10

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

Cooperation Commission With Yugoslavia Meets ..... S 1
Session Yields Agreement ..... S 1
Loan From Belgium To Finance Water Projects ..... S 1

WEST AFRICA

CAPE VERDE

Guinea-Bissau-Cape Verde Communique Issued in Praia ..... T 1

GHANA

Cuban Foreign Minister Arrives for 5-Day Visit ..... T 1
Soviet Installation of Nuclear Reactor Discussed *[AFP]* ..... T 1
Departing FRG Envoy Speaks About Continued Aid ..... T 1

MALI

Talks With Upper Volta on Cooperation, Border Problem ..... T 1
Mali-Guinea Joint Cooperation Plans Reported 17 Mar ..... T 2
Haydala Arrives in Bamako for 1-Day Working Visit ..... T 2

NIGERIA

Egyptian, Libyan Foreign Affairs Officials Arrive ..... T 3
Buhari Meets With Yugoslav Planning Minister ..... T 3
Gambari Meets With State Secretary Howe in UK *[cross-reference]* ..... T 3
Papers on Participation at U.S. Seminar, RSA Pact ..... T 3
Reportage on 15 March Market Fire in Maiduguri ..... T 3
Extent of Damage Unknown ..... T 3
Police Prevent Looting ..... T 4
Borno Investigation Begins ..... T 4
Yola Property Damage Estimated at 10 Million Naira ..... T 4
Toro Teachers College Closed Following 'Rampage' ..... T 4
Plateau Police Prepared To Support Vigilante Groups ..... T 5

UPPER VOLTA

Egypt's Ghali Meets With Sankara, Comments ..... T 5
Niger Head of State Arrives in Ouagadougou ..... T 5

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

'Audacity' of RSA's Namibia Proposals Blasted ..... U 1
Algerian Envoy Brings Dos Santos Bendjedid Message ..... U 1
Health Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR ..... U 1
Soviet Health Minister Departs ..... U 2
UNITA Spokesman Says MPLA Against Reconciliation *[Johannesburg]* ..... U 2
Dos Santos Signs Joint Communique With Cuba *[cross-reference]* ..... U 2
Jorge Visits Romania for Cooperation Conference *[cross-reference]* ..... U 2

COMOROS

'High-Ranking' Government Officials Arrested ..... U 2

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Explains Accord With RSA at Maputo Rally ..... U 3
Frelimo's Dos Santos Reaffirms Recognition of ANC ..... U 6
Economics Affairs Minister Receives French Senators ..... U 6
Pemba Residents Welcome Signing of Nkomati Accord ..... U 6
Soviet Delegation Continues Economic Ties Meetings ..... U 6
Visits Zambezia Province ..... U 6
Cooperation Accord Signed ..... U 6
Luanda Site for Lusophone Countries Summit in April ..... U 6

NAMIBIA

Nujoma Says Toivo Role To Be Decided After 'Rest' *[SAPA]* ..... U 6
Nujoma Calls Discussions With Nyerere 'Fruitful' *[SAPA]* ..... U 7
Nujoma Appeals for RSA-SWAPO Talks in Interview *[SAPA]* ..... U 7

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Declines Comment on Nujoma Appeal for Talks ..... U 8
Government To Study Cuban-Angolan Communique ..... U 8
U.S., UK No Longer To See Reports on Soviet Ships ..... U 8
Government Announces Resettlement Plans in Natal *[Umtata Capital Radio]* ..... U 8

SWAZILAND

Liqoqo Returns National Authority to Queen Regent ..... U 8
Shabalala Replaced as Chief of Constituencies *[THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND 20 Mar]* ..... U 9

ZIMBABWE

Information Minister Asks Halt to Radio Truth *[SAPA]* ..... U 9

PLO's 'Abbas on USSR Relations, Other Topics

JN171537 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Mazin, member of the PLO-Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee, by an unidentified radio reporter in Baghdad; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] At the beginning of this interview we would like to welcome Brother Abu Mazin and hope he will brief us on the present and future dimensions of Palestinian national action.

[Mahmud 'Abbas] The objective of the Zionist schemes against the PLO had been the liquidation of the PLO — its command, cadres, and bases through the aggression perpetrated against it in Beirut. This was the principal objective of the aggression carried out by Zionism, Israel, and imperialism against the PLO, the Palestinian people, and the Lebanese people during the battles in Beirut and in Lebanon. However, after 85 days, they realized that they would not be able to liquidate the PLO although they had removed it from southern Lebanon, the principal base of the Palestinian revolution, and later from Beirut. The Palestinian revolution left Beirut, losing some of its positions. However, it did not lose its political presence, and in reality, it also did not lose its military presence.

Another stage, that of the Tripoli battles, then took place. These battles were waged against the Palestinian revolution by the dissidents, their allies, and those who backed them. The purpose of these battles was to liquidate the head of the revolution, Brother Yasir 'Arafat, and the leaders of the revolution, and to replace these leaders by others who belong to this or that regime. However, the revolution also emerged from these battles without any harm being done to its leaders.

We admit that the revolution is now removed from the battlefield but its cadres continue to operate everywhere, even in Lebanon and in southern Lebanon. From this premise, we reassure our kinfolk that we exist. Our presence does not necessarily need to be official, but we are present everywhere, in the Palestinian arena and in arenas other than the Arab arenas. The present stage is one of reorganization, preservation of oneself, and waiting for what will happen in the future. This stage has three ramifications: Military action must continue and this is taking place whether in southern Lebanon or in the occupied territories; political action too must continue and this is taking place in all Arab and international forums; action in the field of information must continue and this also is taking place. All this must continue to take place awaiting the new stage of the PNC and the Palestinian national unity.

We are now working for convening the PNC and for defining a new formula for national unity. We would like to say here that all those who carried arms against Palestinian legitimacy will be excluded from this national unity. This means that in no case whatsoever shall we deal or cooperate in the Executive Committee or in any Palestinian command with those who carried arms against Palestinian legitimacy, destroyed our refugee camps, our sons, and the Lebanese national guard in Tripoli and the refugee camps.

We shall continue to cooperate with those who refused to carry arms, and who rejected the dissension. We shall continue to cooperate with them whether they carry arms to our side or not. We shall proceed with them along the course of the future national unity on a new basis, that of the commitment to the decisions, the collective commitment to the resolutions, and the commitment to the Palestinian national decisionmaking which stems from the Palestinian people's conscience and which is not affected by this or that regime. We are ready to hold dialogue on this basis. We are actually holding dialogue with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the PFLP, the Palestinian Communist Party, the ALF, and the Palestinian Liberation Front, as well as with independent Palestinian figures. We hold talks with them on this basis to convene the PNC from the premise of the independence Palestinian decisionmaking because we can never accept the tutelage of anyone, whether it is a regime, party, or Arab and non-Arab side.

We believe that the PNC will convene within one month or more. We must go to the PNC united in order to begin a new march that will be solid and based on sound foundations that will prevent the recurrence of past tragedies.

[Reporter] Brother Abu Mazin, we are now able to understand that there are new conditions and rules for national unity in the post-Tripoli stage, is this right?

['Abbas] That is exactly right, and as I said the conditions are: commitment to the independence of Palestinian national decisionmaking, and avoiding tutelage or clientage to anybody; and commitment to the unanimity of the Palestinian decisions. This means that the decisions that are made in the PNC, in the Central Council, or in the Executive Committee should be binding on all, whatever the group. It is not right that after a decision has been made in the Executive Committee for instance, a group then protests the decision by saying that they did not agree to this decision. This does not mean real national unity.

[Reporter] It is well known that the Soviet Union is a friend and is almost the first and most loyal to our Palestinian revolution in the framework of our international relations. We would like you to speak to us, in your capacity as PLO Executive Committee member in addition to being the president of the Soviet-Palestinian Friendship Society, about the scope of Palestinian-Soviet relations and their high level especially in the light of intensive attempts by tendentious propaganda sources to cast doubts on this friendship and these relations.

['Abbas] Frankly, there were many attempts to cast doubts on Palestinian-Soviet relations during the Lebanese war. Many persons tried to show the Soviet Union as negligent for not defending or not attempting to defend the Palestinian revolution. This is why some statements came out from here and there, especially from some of those present in Beirut, casting doubts on the position of the Soviet Union. These statements either ignored or were ignorant of political geography and international formulas that exist in this world. They wanted to slander the

Palestinian-Soviet relations from this angle. We know exactly the real position of the Soviet Union on this war and we also know what the Soviet Union has offered. I personally was in continuous contact, almost weekly, with most Soviet leaders during the war. We know the reality of their position which is in sympathy with and supportive of the Palestinian cause. We also know the limits to which they can go to help us. This is why we always maintained that the attacks against the Soviet Union were unfair and completely untrue.

These attacks continued to the extent that some organisations and parties attempted later to disturb and upset the relations between the PLO and the Soviet Union through what was said about massacres against the Lebanese Communist Party. These parties tried to implicate the leadership of the Palestinian revolution while knowing that the leadership in Tripoli had nothing to do with it.

They tried to disturb our relations with the Soviet Union from this angle but the Soviet Union on the one side and we on the other always surmounted these obstacles and attempts to harm the Palestinian-Soviet relations. I say now that the Palestinian-Soviet relations are at their best and that during Yasir 'Arafat's last visit to Moscow during the funeral of President Yuriy Andropov the Soviets talked frankly and clearly to Abu 'Ammar and the accompanying delegation. It was abundantly clear that there was complete desire for the contination of the good relations and the development of these relations with the Soviet Union. I would like to say that Brother Abu 'Ammar will vist the Soviet Union soon, this month or next month, on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Union to follow up these talks. In addition to this we know the Soviet Union's concern for the Palestinian revolution, their desire for Palestinian national unity, the efforts the Soviet Union is undertaking within this context, and the Soviet efforts to rectify the Palestinian relations with some Arab countries, especially Syria. Such efforts are a clear proof of the Soviet Union's concern for the Palestinian revolution and its desire for the continuation of the friendship that exists between the Palestinian and the Soviet peoples.

[Reporter] Brother Abu Mazin, there was a lot of talk in the media and in the newspapers about the possibility of France and Italy recognizing the PLO. There was also talk of an expected visit by Brother Abu 'Ammar to France? The European position on the whole seems to be governed by a number of points toward our Palestinian revolution. Do you expect a qualitative development in the European position in the wake of France's presidency of the European Community during its present session?

['Abbas] The Palestinian-French relations are good and developing relations even though they have not yet reached the level of official recognition of the PLO. But if we look at the facts we find that the Palestinian-French relations are developing and growing. There are continuous official contacts between the French Foreign Ministry and the PLO Political Department. There are continuous contacts between the French and Palestinian leaders. There has been more than one meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Faruq Qaddumi on the one hand and French official circles on the other. We appreciate the French position in protecting the Palestinian camps, and in developing the European position toward the Palestinian question, especially their latest attempt to present an Egyptian-French proposal to the UN Security Council. Despite the fact that this proposal failed, we consider this a serious attempt on the part of France. Official recognition is not important as long as there are continuous efforts made to develop a better European position under the leadership of France toward the Palestinian question. This concerns us more than the subject of recognition. Recognition will come, but at a later date.

[Reporter] Brother Abu Mazin, it is well known that the Zionist enemy since occupying our land in 1967 has pursued an active settlement plan all over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It is worth noting that the enemy is using the settlements as a factor of psychological pressure on our masses in the occupied land to the effect that the land has been lost. They are pressing for capitulation; meaning direct recognition of the enemy and finishing everything, while using the settlements as a political card against the PLO to hasten in presenting all the cards politically and militarily on the negotiations table. What is your opinion on this?

['Abbas] First, when they ask us for haste, we are not slow in political activity. But haste for what? If it is haste for capitulation? I do not think our kinfolk are pushing us to that direction. If it is haste for a just and comprehensive settlement in Palestine and the Middle East then we are ready for that. We ask our kinfolk in the occupied territories if an honorable solution containing a minimum value of national dignity has been presented to them or to anybody else? In our opinion such a solution has not been presented in any way so far. This is why we hear the extortionist talk every now and then that the land has been lost. Without any doubt, the Israeli settlement is continuing and growing in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but this must not push us to accept just any solution, otherwise there is no use. If we accept the autonomy then this is a legitimization or legalization of occupation, while settlement is de facto occupation which remains as that of the occupation of the 1948 territories. We did not and will not recognize it, but if we accept the autonomy, it is as if we accepted everything and accepted the loss of land, the kinfolk, and all the homeland.

Our reply to this was in different directions; first from the political point of view we say that we accept any solution that gives our people the right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil. On another side we were working to strengthen the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied territories. This is what made us in the beginning call for the plan that we called the twinning plan between the Palestinian municipalities and the Arab municipalities. This means that every Arab municipality adopts a Palestinian municipality and helps it with aid and support for its steadfastness, for schools, hospitals, health, electricity, and for entrenching the people in the land. This plan continued for 1 year until the Baghdad summit changed it into an official plan, which meant official support by a group of Arab countries. They are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE, Iraq, Libya, and Algeria. Each of these countries pays a certain amount to a joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee to support steadfastness in the occupied territories. It is regrettable that this plan operated for 2 or 3 years, then some Arab countries stopped making payments until we reached a stage now when the countries do not pay

anything for this fund. This made our kinfolk live in hardship conditions and harsh life as well as under psychological, economic, and social pressures practiced against them by the Zionist aggression, which increases emigration from the West Bank and Gaza. A proof of this is that our kinfolk in the West Bank in 1967 numbered 640,000 and now number 640,000, our kinfolk in Gaza numbered 400,000 in 1967 and now they number 400,000. This means that the natural increase from 1967 to 1984 are no longer in these areas. It is known that the natural increase and birth rate among the Palestinian people is one of the highest rates in the region. Despite this, all the increase is has gone outside these areas. This means that the youthful manpower has all gone outside these areas because of unemployment, because there are no jobs, because of the pressure, and because of all these factors.

The Arab countries which were committed to support steadfastness must not only pay their commitments, but develop these commitments to be in harmony with the social circumstances, high prices, taxes, and escalation of prices which increased a great deal between 1979 and 1984. Despite the difficult life, terrorism, and persecution we say to our kinfolk in the occupied territories: Feel assured. At the time when a plan is presented to us — a plan that will maintain Palestinian national integrity — we will not hesitate to accept it. However, we cannot accept a plan that will end Palestinian existence, Palestinian identity, and Palestinian dignity.

We consider the settlements which cover more than 50 percent of the West Bank a sword over our heads, because if we accept what is presented to us we will give these settlements legal recognition. In other words we will disavow our rights, a matter which is rejected by our kinfolk and by us.

[Reporter] Brother Abu Mazin, in his address to a United Jewish Appeal meeting in Washington 2 days ago, U.S. President Reagan reiterated that his plan is still alive, and that it is good for peace or for achieving the so-called peace in the Arab region. What is your comment on this statement?

['Abbas] We have already rejected the Reagan plan. We said frankly that it does not fulfill the national, legitimate, and firm rights of the Palestinian people. Our PNC announced its opinion frankly to this effect.

In our recent Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, we agreed that such initiatives will not fulfill the Palestinians' national rights. Therefore, whether or not President Reagan said his plan still exists, we do not believe that this plan is the solution that will achieve our rights. The United States must reconsider its political stands toward the Palestinian people. The United States must at least recognize the Palestinian people as the other peoples in the world. Why are every people in the world given their right to self-determination while the Palestinian people are deprived of this right? Why does the international law create expressions such as, as President Carter said,— the Palestinian people's right to participate in their self- determination. We have only heard this about the Palestinian people. Why do we say the Salvadoran people's right to self-determination, the Indian people's right to self-determination, the South African people's right to self-determination, the Namibian people's right to self-determination, and the Rhodesian people's right to self-determination? The world and the United States recognizes the right of all peoples to self-determination, except the Palestinian people who have the right to participate in their self-determination. The United States must reconsider its stands. However, we know that the U.S. stand on the Palestinian cause and people is not new. He who believes that the U.S. stand on the Palestine cause in the 1940's and 1950's was new is mistaken. The U.S. stand is very old. The U.S. stand began in 1840, not 1940. In 1840, the United States began to think of establishing a national homeland for the Jews in Palestine. This was not out of love for the Jews, and not for the interests of the Jews, but to achieve imperialist interests by using Jewish tools. Hence, we consider the Jews, as human beings, the victims of imperialism, because they were placed in a position from which they would confront the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. At this time, we are convinced that the Jews do not want such a confrontation, and if they are given the choice, and if they are given the right to self-determination they would not stay in Palestine, and would stay among their people in the countries in which they lived for hundreds and thousands of years whether in Europe, the Middle East the United States, or in other parts of the world.

Thus, we can say that the U.S. stand toward the Palestinian people and the Palestine cause is not a new one; it is firm and as old as the British stand, because both began in 1840 at the time of Muhammad 'Ali's wars in Syria and Lebanon. They feared the establishment of a united Arab country at that time. Since that time, they began to think of settling this region. But they thought of bringing the Jews so that they would become the shield that would separate our nation and them, face us, and absorb Arab blows in order to protect the interests of colonialism and international imperialism in the Middle East.

[Reporter] In conclusion, we thank Brother Abu Mazin, although we had hoped that this dialogue would be longer. We hope that we will meet Brother Abu Mazin once again. Thank you Brother Abu Mazin.

['Abbas] You are welcome.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Interviews PLO's Al-Wazir

JN181005 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Mar 84 pp 1, 19

[Text] *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces and member of the Fatah Central Committee, arrived in Amman from Tunis the day before yesterday after participating in the Fatah Central Committee session held in the Tunisian capital under Yasir 'Arafat's chairmanship. During its meetings, the Central Committee reviewed the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian summit and the latest developments of the Palestine question in the Arab and international arenas. It also adopted the appropriate resolutions regarding the convocation of the fifth Fatah congress and the PNC.

In an exclusive statement to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*, Abu Jihad said: We are working hard to bring about the success of the Palestinianmeeting which will be held in Aden. This topic is still on our agenda and we are giving it proper attention. Consulta-

tions between us and our brothers in the resistance factions are going on with the aim of preparing for this meeting. The future of the intra-Palestinian relations, the convocation of the PNC, and the reactivation of the PLO's legitimate institutions depend on the results of this meeting.

Regarding the meetings of the Military Council, Al-Wazir said: We are always giving increasing attention to the reorganization of our forces by following up these forces' training and armament and by setting the rules of military action in order to give the required push to armed action in the occupied homeland. While participating now in the armed resistance in southern Lebanon in one way or another, we aspire to escalate this action according to the available opportunities. There is no doubt that we are facing difficulties in this regard, but the horizons of action are still open and require some arrangements and preparations in order to embark on a qualitative move in armed action. Regarding the joint committee, Abu Jihad said: We contacted our Arab brothers and asked them to extend the required sums of money to the fund for bolstering steadfastness. We are waiting for invitations to pay working visits to some Arab capitals for the sake of reactivating the fund. Backing this fund is a duty dictated by the Arab countries' responsibilities toward our people in the occupied homeland.

PFLP-GC Issues Statement Denouncing Jordan

JN181417 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1335 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 18 Mar (SANA) — The PFLP-GC has denounced the campaign of search, harassment, and arrest being carried out by the Jordanian regime in cooperation with 'Arafat and his clique against the Palestinian strugglers, who are known for their hostility to and rejection of the settlement and capitulatory plans and all forms of abandoning the struggling gun.

In a statement here today, the front said that the Jordanian authorities yesterday arrested Mustafa Khamis, one of the PFLP-GC cadres, without appreciating the long history of his struggle and the years he spent in the enemy's jails from 1968 to 1979. The front also called on the Amman rulers to immediately release him and refrain from chasing the Palestinian strugglers who live in Jordan. The front also asserted that if Mustafa Khamis was not released, the front would reply to these repressive, fascist methods with appropriate means.

KUWAIT

Press Views Motives Behind Omdurman Bombing

LD180956 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Mar (KUNA) — *'AR-RA'Y AL-AMM* of Kuwait warned today that the United States is determined to extend explosive areas in the Arab world. It drew attention to the fact that in the past Washington has not hesitated to "stab the Arabs and work to humiliate and browbeat them."

It said a new hotbed is now in progress in Sudan in order to preoccupy the African Arabs who do "not know why and from where the unidentified aircraft come to bomb Omdurman." The paper wonders if this incident is intended to "divert Egypt's moves toward returning to the Arab fold and getting rid of the shackles of Camp David, in addition to ending its support for Iraq." The paper draws attention to the fact that opening a front in Sudan will preoccupy all the countries of the African Arab region and will also open the door to an endless trade in weapons. Thus, the Arab region will be drowned in a destructive war fanned by the United States, while Lebanon has not as yet entered a state of peace.

AS-SIYASAH wonders if the Omdurman incident took place because Egypt supports Iraq and in order to have it preoccupied in a war in Sudan, in view of the joint defense agreement between Sudan and Egypt. It asks if those who bombed Sudan are actually Arabs. It said if this is the case, our Arab world is in an unenviable and tragic position. It said: Is it the intention to dismember the Arab world further and to break it up to the point of death? The paper added: "What will follow the misery the people feel in our Arab world? Are we now seeing the end of the Arab nation?"

AR-RAY' AL-'AMM Assails Reagan on Jordan

GF161522 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 15 Mar 84 pp 1, 33

[Editorial: "Reagan and the Alliance of Freedom"]

[Excerpt] We do not know whether U.S President Reagan — while addressing a group of Jewish leaders in Washington — wanted to benefit Jordan or to harm it when he told his audience that his intention to provide weapons to Jordan "comes within the framework of the U.S. strategic interest and that this will not threaten Israel's security, in that it will reinforce the prospects of peace in the region." The U.S. President did not note the impudence of his statement that the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel is "an alliance designed to defend freedom in the Middle East." But he did regard it as impudent when Yasir 'Arafat called the latest Jerusalem operation a legitimate act.

It is clear that the U.S President is creating pressure in order to cause a schism between Jordan and Syria. If he succeeds in that — God forbid — then this will spark fighting in a new area in the region, enabling Israel to move east of the Jordan River and thus impose its domain and the de facto situation at a time the U.S. weapons are being supplied on the condition that they will not be used against Israel.

Therefore, it seems that the U.S. supply of weapons to Jordan is designed to harm Jordan rather than to help it defend itself. This U.S. style and this vivid slander cannot be dissociated from the repeated Israeli statements that the state of the Palestinians is located to the east of the Jordan River. The only U.S. alliance is the alliance with Israel. The only U.S. friendship is the friendship with Israel. It is impossible for the United States to have an ally or a friend among the Arabs. This matter is absurd.

This U.S. decision [to provide Jordan with weapons] comes after the U.S. defeat in Lebanon. The United States wants to employ it — among other things — in order to encourage the process of liquidations in Palestine and to pave the way for an Israeli thrust in the direction of another Arab front. The U.S.-Israeli eye is presently on the Jordan front.

ARAB TIMES on Iran's Goal of 'Expansionism'

GF161106 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 15 Mar 84 p 8

["Opinion" column by Editor in Chief Ahmad al-Jarallah]

[Text] What will Iran do when the outcry starts to grow from the fathers and mothers of youths who are being thrown mercilessly into the hell of battle with Iraq without any military training or experience?

The world has sat up and begun to talk about this situation as a result of the protests which are gaining momentum inside Iran among the parents of these children, some of whom are not yet 14 years old.

This tragedy alone may ultimately open a crack in the Iranian homefront and cause trouble for the Tehran regime.

Iraq fully understands the importance of this situation, and Arab foreign ministers may capitalise on it to create a universal protest against a regime that is similar to Hitler's, even if its tactics differ. The goal is the same: expansionism.

In the case of Iran, it is based on such ridiculous dreams as exporting its ideology to the Gulf, overthrowing the Moroccan regime and attacking the White House. Iran also dreams of running the affairs of the holy city of Mecca. It has a number of other impossible dreams.

And it wants to try to turn these dreams into reality through its children who are being sent to the front unwillingly and without the consent of their parents, or even their knowledge.

This Hitlerian method must be opposed, not only by Arabs but by everybody. Otherwise the world will ultimately suffer from the dreams of some foolish, irrational minds which do not know what they want, except to be different from everybody else.

Defense Minister Says New Units To Join Navy

LD200930 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0719 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Mar (KUNA) — In a statement published here today, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah disclosed that a number of new naval units will shortly join the Kuwaiti Navy "to protect the country's territorial waters." However, *AL-QABAS*, which published this statement, did not mention whether Shaykh Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah had given any details about these units.

The defense minister made this statement yesterday after attending a graduation ceremony for assault forces. During the ceremony, a naval landing maneuver was performed in which coastal artillery and antitank mines were used, and a suicide operation against tanks was performed. A total of 47 men from the forces of other GCC member countries participated in the maneuver.

The paper quotes Shaykh Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah as also saying that the Ministry of Defense has begun circulating forms pertaining to total mobilization in the country. He said "the forms recently distributed by the General Staff Headquarters — the manpower board — to workers in the public and private sectors aim at ascertaining the technical, medical, and engineering capabilities for use in the cause of a total mobilization in service of a war effort and emergencies." The paper says that Shaykh Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah pointed out that the plan "covers Kuwaiti citizens in the first place as well as residents in the country."

Turkish Antiterrorist Experts Begin Visit

GF181055 Doha QNA in Arabic 0708 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Mar (QNA) — Press reports said here today that Kuwait is taking advantage of Turkey's expertise in the field of combating terrorism and thwarting any attempts against Kuwait's security and stability.

The Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* said that a Turkish delegation of security personnel led by the director of public security is currently visiting Kuwait to hold talks on this issue, especially the possibility of providing training in Turkey for Kuwaiti cadres in antiterrorist operations.

Assembly Official Opposes Constitution Changes

GF181517 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 17 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] The deputy speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly has warned that present proposals to change the country's constitution would limit the power of the Assembly and restrict public freedom. Ahmad as-Sa'dun also warned that proposed changes to the election law and the Assembly's constitution were designed to secure a majority in the Assembly for the constitutional amendments. The present Assembly is due to be dissolved this year and elections held in October, and As-Sa'dun stressed that public opinion was against constitutional or election law changes.

As-Sa'dun said the main task of the next Assembly would be to amend the constitution but not on the present proposals which would limit the role of the Assembly to a formal body which would require the approval of the executive authority before passing any laws. On the achievements of the current Assembly, he said that more laws had been passed than ever before, because of an amendments to the Assembly's charter which prohibited the suspension of draft laws.

Speaking at a seminar organised by Kuwait Students Union, as-Sa'dun also referred to the holding of preliminary elections in some constituencies in Kuwait. He said this was not a good move, and could be seen as one of the disadvantages of democracy. On the nationality law currently before the Assembly, As-Sa'dun said this referred only to people who carried the nationality of their countries, and not to bedouins without nationality.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-JAZIRAH Scores U.S. Double Standards

PM161145 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 9 Mar 84 p 2

[Jasir al-Jasir "Spotlight" column: "Finally the United States Has Spoken"]

[Text] Finally the United States has spoken. The United States, which has remained silent during the past 4 years, has finally spoken. The United States, which claims neutrality in the Gulf war, has been exposed. The United States, through a State Department spokesman, has said that "It has been established for the United States that Iraq has used chemical weapons in the recent fighting east of Basra."

The one who is saying this is the United States, the country which was the first to use such weapons against countries thousands of miles away from it. The United States, which used nuclear bombs against Japan and chemical weapons against Vietnam, is condemning Iraq's use of chemical weapons to repel Iranian aggression. This contrast between actual behavior and claims to virtue can fool no one in this world who knows what the U.S. soldiers did in countries that commited no crime but to reject a U.S. hegemony which the United States failed to impose even after the use of chemical weapons.

With regard to Iraq's situation and the identity of the U.S. and Iranian stand of accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons, there is no evidence to support such an allegation. Iran, in an exposed propaganda stunt, sent five soldiers to Sweden for treatment from injuries caused by Iraqi chemical weapons. Press reports said that Iran, whose citizens stand in long lines to buy bread and whose soldiers fight wearing civilian clothes because of a lack of military gear, is paying $2,000 per day for the treatment of these five soldiers in one of Stockholm's major hospitals.

But Iran's maneuver has failed and has not achieved its purpose, since doctors at the Stockholm hospital and the Swedish Defense Ministry's doctors did not go along with the Iranian allegations. They confirmed that they have found no evidence to support Iran's accusations. The Swedish doctors did not find evidence on the bodies of the five soldiers chosen by Tehran to confirm its

allegation. As for Washington, it has been "established" for it that Iraq did use chemical weapons. As to why the United States knew and the doctors did not know, this is an Amrican secret which can be uncovered by reading the book "Talks About Morality."

UAE

Press Hails Husayn Remarks on U.S. Role

AL-ITTIHAD — 16 Mar

GF161843 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 16 Mar (WAM) — In its editorial today, the newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* praised the remarks by King Husayn of Jordan published in the U.S. newspaper *THE NEW YORK TIMES* yesterday and described them as an expression and a reflection of the view of all Arabs who have had dealings with the United States and have had confidence in it but have not seen this confidence put to use in the right place.

AL-ITTIHAD said: The remarks by the Jordanian monarch deserve from Washington a special consideration because of the importance of these remarks and the importance of the figure who made these remarks. "The Jordanian king has a special position and place in both the Arab world and the United States. Washington cannot accuse him of extremism or antagonism because it knows very well that he is one of the most sensible, realistic, and accepted Arabs from the U.S. point of view and not from any other view," the paper said.

The newspaper noted the comment by the official spokesman for the U.S. State Department on the Jordanian monarch's remarks, which he described as "regrettable and the U.S. Government was disappointed by them."

Concluding, the newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* said: "When this spokesman says, in reply to the remarks by King Husayn, that the United States supports and assists Jordan's security, this means that King Husayn's message has not reached Washington and that it has not been understood as desired. Surely, this message will not find any understanding in the year of U.S. elections."

KHALEEJ TIMES — 18 Mar

GF181538 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 18 Mar 84 p 6

[Editorial: "The Counsel of a Friend"]

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has delivered what has been described as a body-blow to US policies in the Middle East, the second such blow within days of the nationalist forces securing the abrogation of the US-sponsored May 17 agreement between Lebanon and Israel.

In an interview with *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, the king, a pragmatic statesman and a friend of the West, offered the harshest critique of American policy in the Middle East in recent years. What he said will not come exactly as a revelation to us in the Arab world, but it has sent shockwaves reverberating among the Americans who for too long have been taking the Arabs for granted. He said that he was concerned about the US and its double-standards everywhere. He expressed the common Arab position when he said that Israel occupies our land, it is there by virtue of American military assitance and economic aid which is used to build Zionist settlements on the West Bank, and American moral and political support for Israel has reached a point where the US is succumbing to Israeli dictates. Such support has bolstered Israeli claims that the Palestinian issue is not one of land but of people.

The king rightly feels that the U.S. has lost credibility as a mediator because of its one-sided support for the Zionist entity. He has, therefore, refused to open direct talks with Israel, thus repudiating American moves in the Middle East, and in particular Mr Reagan's stated policy of encouraging Jordan and the so-called Palestinian moderates to enter into peace negotiations with Israel. He warned that another Arab-Israeli war was inevitable if the U.S.continued its enormous military support for Israel which will amount to $1.4 billion this year, most of it in the form of an outright grant.

This principled critique has stunned the Americans who appear to have failed to understand its import. One State Department official described it as "just another monkey-wrench" in American plans for the Middle East and another attributed it merely to the "pessimistic mood" the king was in because of Mr Reagan's rejection of two specific Jordanian requests for political assistance to support his draft resolution at the UN condemning as illegal Israeli settlements on the West Bank and to get Israel to grant travel permits to 160 Palestinians to attend the next session of the PNC. But these were merely the straws that broke the camel's back.

The Americans are now pleading that Mr Reagan had after all decided to speak out in favour of the advanced weapons sales to Jordan, to criticise the Israel settlements and to rule out shifting the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, but under what conditions? The U.S. Congress is now discussing attempts to attach humiliating conditions to the $220-million arms deal for a mobile strike force, a position the King has decribed as insulting. The Reagan administration has only promised to try to persuade Israel to agree to a moratorium on Zionist settlements but only after Jordan agrees to sit down with Israel in negotiations.

Finally, as the Arab League envoy to the U.S. has pointed out, the embassy shift is being treated merely as a pragmatic consideration in view of the widely expected worldwide repercussions rather than as a genuine change of heart.

It may turn out that American insensitivity and lack of even-handed approach to the Middle East question will succeed in breaking the back of the present American policy. Mr Reagan's national security adviser has said that King Husayn's rejection of the Reagan plan has effectively killed it. The king has also refused to be blackmailed on the arms issue and has given notice that if Congress insisted on attaching impossible conditions, Jordan will be entitled "to get weapons from anythwere and

anyone else in the world." With the election fever paralysing Mr Reagan's foreign policy, American dominance in the Middle East may be sufficiently neutralised to permit fresh ideas to emerge.

King Husayn has given a boost to one of these ideas. He has argued that the U.S. has no right to object to the presence of the Soviet Union at any peace negotiations, but because neither of the superpowers is in a position to act as an honest broker, the permanent members of the UN Security Council as well as all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO, should be involved. The U.S. is predictably resisting what it considers an encroachment into its preserve in the Middle East, but it has failed to bring peace to the region. Would it not be a folly on the part of Washington if it failed to heed the counsel of one who is a friend and is motivated only by a yearning for peace?

AL-BAYAN Denounces Plots Against Sudan

GF171210 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0618 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Dubayy, 17 Mar (WAM) — In its editorial today, *AL-BAYAN* stresses that anything that undermines security in any Arab country directly benefits the Israeli enemy and harms the Arab resistance in its battle of destiny against the external attacks on the Arab homeland and the international ambitions for controlling the region, its wealth and its strategic position.

Under the headline "So That a New Wound Will Not Open," the paper says that the air raid on Omdurman yesterday represents a dangerous escalation in the plots aimed at disrupting Sudan and a practical application of the blantant Israeli plot to submerge the Arab countries as a whole and individually in endless bloody disputes which drain their powers, disperse their efforts and divert their attention from the overwhelming danger that threatens their existence and destiny.

The newspaper expresses hope that the leaders in Sudan will take the necessary measures to foil the plot to undermine Sudan's security and territorial integrity so that it does not become another Lebanon. The newspaper stresses that there is no doubt that it is the voracious superpowers who want to devour the entire Arab world which were and still are behind these and similar events.

The newspaper points out that the Arabs in the East and in the West are deeply concerned over what has been plotted against Sudan and are hopeful that this country can preserve its unity because it is the only practical answer to the big plot which is determined to divide the African Continent into a northern Arab region and a southern African region.

Press Views U.S. Role in Omdurman Raid

GF191526 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Mar 84

[From press review]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 19 Mar (WAM) — In its editorial today *AL-KHALIJ* urged the tackling of the Omdurman raid incident, which took place last Friday, in a wise and logical manner which takes into consideration the national interests. The paper accused the United States of arousing the anger of the Arabs against each other.

The paper denounced any intervention into the internal affairs of any Arab country and called for equal inter-Arab relations ruled by logic and national interest, particularly in North Africa. It said that this is a vital Arab region, vital to the security of the entire Arab world. Arabs hatred of fellow Arabs has a tremendous negative effect on the future of our people, both their independence and their unity.

In its editorial, *AL-FAJR* attacked the U.S. role in the region and described it as dangerous and expressed the belief that the Omdurman incident is not outside the realm of U.S. activities and is most certainly within its plans to involve the Arab countries of the region in insignificant and unreasonable regional conflicts.

Concluding its editorial, the paper said: The greatest fear is that two large Arab countries will be forced to change their Arab development course to enter into a bloody and futile conflict. Instead of engaging in conflicts, we should be engaged in cooperative efforts in construction, development, and confrontation of the joint enemy so that our Arab people will take notice of the targets of the United States, which sets in motion its destructive plots and then gives us the arms to kill, fight, and destroy each other. This fact requires that we take a logical and wise approach.

YAR

Foreign Minister Returns From Baghdad Meeting

GF161852 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, foreign affairs minister and secretary of the Standing Committee, returned to San'a' today from Baghdad, after chairing the emergency session of the Arab foreign ministers held there recently. In a statement to SABA', he stressed the positive results of the conference and the resolutions which represent Arab unanimity and which rejects the ill-omened war between Iraq and Iran.

The foreign minister added that the session also affirmed the unity of the Arab fold in the confrontation of the dangers that threaten the security of the region as a result of the continuation and the escalation of this war. He went on to say that the session affirmed the commitment to the Arab League Charter, the resolution of the 12th summit at Fes, and the requirements of joint defense.

Concluding his statement, Dr al-Asbahi said: We will act through the ministerial committee which stems from the conference and participate in accordance with our capabilities in order to terminate this regretful war.

Egypt To Receive AWACS, Other Planes From U.S.

NC191345 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1328 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) — MENA has learned that as a result of recent contacts between Egypt, Sudan, and the United States, it has been agreed to supply Egypt with one or more AWACS planes. MENA has also learned that Egypt will receive AC-2 special reconnaissance planes in 1985.

Husayn, Mubarak Hold Phone Consultation

NC192101 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2037 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) — His Majesty King Husayn has contacted President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by telephone for consultation about the recent events in the area.
His excellency the president also put his majesty the Jordanian king in the picture concerning these events.
The president has also decided to send a special emissary with a letter to meet his majesty.

U.S. Urged To Ponder King Husayn's Statements

NC170656 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2246 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA) — The Cairo newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* urges the United States to ponder at length Jordanian King Husayn's recent statements. The paper says the United States should consider the remarks as an expression of the strong disappointment felt by all the friends of the United States in the Middle East and not only as an expression of anger by an important friend.

In its Saturday editorial, the newspaper asks what the United States has done to rescue Lebanon from the Israeli invasion. It says that instead of working to oust the Israeli forces from Lebanon, the United States has increased its economic and military aid to Israel.

The paper also asks what the United States has done for the Palestinians whose leader, Yasir 'Arafat, has shown sufficient flexibility and moderation for the United States to agree to start a dialogue with him, but the United States has not done so as a result of an Israeli restriction voiced by Kissinger.

The paper concludes its commentary by saying: We do not absolve the Arabs of their mistakes, but at the same time we do not exonerate the friend from whom we expected help for the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace. Instead, we found our friend directing more aid to the forces of aggression, occupation, and colonization.

People's Assembly Committee Condemns Raid

NC191535 Cairo MENA in English 1510 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 19 (MENA) — The People's Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee condemned today the inhuman air raid against Omdurman. A report to this effect was made today by the committee and read out by its chairman Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah.

The report called on the world parliaments to denounce such an aggression, and affirmed Egypt's support for the Sudan.

'Ali Delivers Statement

NC191333 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, delivered a statement at the People's Assembly today regarding the air raid on the Sudanese city of Omdurman last Friday.

'Ali said today's meeting and the discussions held on the treacherous aggression against Sudan reflect the depth of the ties and fraternity joining the two peoples in the Nile valley. They also reflect a high sense of national responsibility and a clear message to everyone who contemplates tampering with the destiny of the peoples.

'Ali added: Study of the aggression will show that the type of aircraft used and the bombs it fired clearly indicate that this type of aircraft is available in Libya alone and that it took off from the Al-Kafrah base in Libya. Al-Qadhdhafi's statements that Libya has decided to support the rebels in southern Sudan in order to liberate every inch of Sudan substantiate this fact.

'Ali added: What happened in Sudan last Friday is not the first incident of its kind. Other similar attempts were made through southern Sudan. The Sudanese Government foiled attempts at attacking Sudan and Omdurman broadcasting station. The objective of the series of attacks against Sudan is to destabilize it. They are a part of the series of similar interferences in the Arab region and Africa.

The foreign minister continued: The recent aggression is characterized by stupidity and adventurism. It is a clear pointer to the falsehood of Libya's allegations that it desires to improve its relations.

'Ali said: Libya's record of aggressions is a full one; its aggressions have covered all parts of the world. Libya attacked the oil pipelines and spread chaos in Africa; it encouraged terrorist movements; it sent planes; shipments of ships were confiscated, and smuggled arms to Latin America.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister continued: We must not give the incident any more significance than it deserves. We must not place it anywhere other than in its right perspective. Since Egypt received the initial reports about the aggression, Egypt sided with Sudan and implemented the joint defense agreements. The military operations staff convened in accordance with the stipulation of the [defense] treaty. A group of officers were sent to appraise the situation with the Sudanese officers and adopt various measures which would prevent the recurrence of the aggression.

'Ali affirmed that Egypt's association with Sudan is one of fate and destiny and that Egypt's borders are a strategic depth for Sudan and vice versa. This is, he said, an eternal fact and let nobody err in his calculations.

'Ali said further: It is on this basis that theEgyptian Government and people adopted their stand condemning and denouncing the aggression. We are confident that these aggressions will fail and backfire.

The foreign minister went on: The fraternal states have condemned this aggression. This condemnation needs to be transformed into a deed to deal collectively with this [aggression] phenomenon, which has reached the extent of interference in domestic affairs.
'Ali said the international community mostly condemns such acts because of the effect they have on world stability and security. This community, 'Ali added, must comprehend the grave impact which such acts have on the African Continent.

Concluding his statement, 'Ali said that Egypt — a country which is leading the march of peace in the area — is warning those who contrive such plots that any attempt to repeat them will be met in kind and that these plots are doomed to fail.

Finally, the People's Assembly agreed to issue a statement announcing its total support for the steps taken by Egypt's political leadership to counter the aggression against Sudan. The People's Assembly will call on all peace-loving peoples to denounce this aggression.

Mubarak Meets Senior Army Officers 19 Mar

NC191436 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today met with the senior commanders of the Armed Forces at the Armed Forces General Headquarters.

Mubarak Meets With Indian Envoy On Gulf War

NC201012 Cairo MENA in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 20 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received today, at Al-Qubbah Republican Palace, Indian Ambassador here Alfred Gonsalves.
The Indian ambassador later said that his meeting with President Mubarak took place at the request of Indian Premier Mrs Indira Gandhi for urgent talks with the president on efforts that could be made by the nonaligned countries for halting the Iraq-Iran War.
Ambassador Gonsalves said that he had exchanged views with President Mubarak on the Iran-Iraq war, adding that he felt that the non-aligned countries should take the initiative because the situation was extremely dangerous.

He said the situation in the Middle East and Indian-Egyptian relations were also reviewed during his meeting with the president.

To a question on whether specific steps were taken to halt the Iran-Iraq war, Ambassador Gonsalves said that non-aligned countries were holding consultations to determine what steps could be taken. He said there was agreement on the need to do something very quickly.

Ni Zhifu Leads PRC Trade Union Group Visit

Received by Mubarak

NC172043 Cairo MENA in English 2030 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 17 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received the chairman of the Chinese Worker's Union and member of the Politburo, currently on a visit here.

Minister of State for Manpower and Technical Training Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad and the Chinese ambassador attended the meeting.

The Chinese labour delegation had arrived here on Tuesday for a week-long visit.

Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din had earlier met with the Chinese delegation.

The meeting dealt with means to promote relations between the two countries in economic and commercial fields, as well as the Middle East situation.

Meets Prime Minister

NC172021 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din tonight received Ni Zhifu, chairman of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and member of the Chinese Communist Party's Politburo. Ni is presently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to promote bilateral relations, particularly in the economic and trade areas. They also discussed the situation in the Middle East.

The Chinese official stressed throughout the meeting his country's support for a just and lasting solution in the Middle East based on acknowledging the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Ways to bolster cooperation between Egyptian and Chinese trade unions regarding exchange of expertise were also discussed.

The meeting was attended by Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, minister of state for manpower and training, and Guoyu Ding, Chinese ambassador to Cairo.

Holds News Conference

NC191800 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) — Ni Zhifu, chairman of the All China Federation of Trade Unions and member of the Chinese Communist Party Politburo, who is currently visiting Cairo, has stated that he conveyed to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, when he received him and his delegation the day before yesterday, a message of greetings and appreciation from the Chinese political leadership. He added that President Mubarak gave him a verbal message to the Chinese leadership.

At a news conference he held today, the Chinese official said that both messages express reciprocal respect and admiration by the Chinese and Egyptian leaderships for each other. He added that they also express a desire for strengthening the relations and ties of cooperation between the governments and peoples of both countries.

During his news conference which was attended by Ding Guoyu, China's ambassador to Cairo, Ni Zhifu praised President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his wise policy, particularly his eagerness to establish peace in the area and his insistence on taking Egypt along the path of development and raising the people's living standard. He said: We are proud of the achievements of the Egyptian people under the leadership of President Mubarak in the fields of development and construction. The per capita income in Egypt now exceeds that in China.

The Chinese official praised Egypt's international role, its sound stands vis-a-vis the contemporary international problems, and its constant interest in solving disputes peacefully.
Ni Zhifu said: Egypt and China hold identical views on basic issues in the contemporary world, mainly the rejection of the increasing escalation of the arms race.

The Chinese official pointed out that both Egypt and China agree on rejecting everything which threatens the world peace and security and the people's rights. He rejected the hegemony practiced by the superpowers. He [word indistinct] the safeguarding of the peoples' freedom and independence and the defense of their sovereignty.
Ni Zhifu, chairman of the All China Federation of Trade Unions, which has 75 million members, stressed the support of his country's workers and people for the national rights of the Palestinian people. He said that one of the main principles to which China adheres is backing and supporting the African and Third World peoples in their struggle to maintain their sovereignty and legitimate rights, and in their fight against imperialism, oppression, and all forms of hegemony.

Asked about the Iran-Iraq war, the Chinese official said: We consider Iran and Iraq as two friendly states. We hope they will sit together around the negotiations table to solve their dispute peacefully.
The Chinese official referred to his discussions with the leaders of the General Federation of Egypt's Labor Unions saying that they dealt with ways of bolstering trade union relations between the two countries. He said that the All China Federation of Trade Unions would like to benefit from the experience of the Egyptian trade unions in the fields of labor education and trade union training. It also would like to exchange expertise and advice with the Egyptian trade unions on the question of the participation of workers in the administration.

The chairman of All China Federation of Trade Unions said at his news conference that his visit gave him an opportunity to become acquainted with the splendid roles which the Egyptian workers and people carried out not only against colonialism and aggression and for the sake of liberation but also in the fields of development and construction. He lauded the great projects and achievements which have been realized and which confirm that Egypt is progressing continuously.

Referring to his reception and that of his delegation by President Mubarak, the Chinese official said: This is a great honor to us and to all the Chinese workers. During the meeting, President Mubarak stressed the ties of friendship between the two countries. He added: The reception of the delegation by the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt and its prime minister, despite their many engagements, was not a mere reception of a friendly trade unionist delegation but an expression of the great friendship existing between two friendly countries and peoples.

Concluding his news conference, Ni Zhifu confirmed the desire of the workers federation in his country to cooperate with the trade union organizations, particularly in Asia, Africa, and the Third World. He also emphasized his country's desire to strengthen its role in the international labor society and to cooperate with the ILO in the various fields of its activity. He expressed his federation's hope to develop and bolster cooperation with the General Federation of the Egyptian Labor Union.

Departs Cairo 20 March

NC200632 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — Ni Zhifu, chairman of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and member of the Chinese Communist Party Politburo, and his delegation left Cairo for Tanzania this morning at the end of a 7-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Sa'd Muhammad Ahamd, minister of state for manpower and training. During the visit, the Chinese delegation met with President Husni Mubarak and held talks with Egyptian officials on means to consolidate relations between the Egyptian and Chinese trade unions.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Doha Continues Visit

Meets With Mubarak

NC171550 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

In a statement after the meeting, the Bangladesh foreign minister said: We look forward to President Mubarak's visit to Bangladesh. He added that he had conveyed a message from the Bangladesh president highlighting his country's full respect for the Egyptian Government and people and his country's congratulations on Egypt's return to the ILO. He said: We believe that Egypt's role is very important for the establishment of peace in the region.

Holds Talks With 'Ali

NC161356 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA) — Official talks began today between Egypt and Bangladesh. Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conferred with Bangladesh

Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha, who is currently visiting Cairo. The talks thoroughly reviewed international and Islamic issues and focused on the situation in the Middle East, the developments in the Lebanese and Palestinian issues, and the Iran-Iraq war.

'Ali explained Egypt's efforts to solve the Palestinian issue and to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the area. The talks also dealt with the forthcoming meeting of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, which will be held in San'a' next summer, as well as means of bolstering bilateral relations in various areas.

'Ali expressed thanks and appreciation to the foreign minister for Bangladesh's role regarding Egypt's resumption of its activity within the Islamic group. 'Ali hosted a dinner in honor of the Bangladesh guest, who arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 3-day visit.

Joint Statement Issued

NC171915 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Egypt and Bangladesh have reaffirmed that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East can only be achieved by Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and by the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

In a joint statement issued today on the visit to Egypt of the Bangladesh foreign minister, Egypt and Bangladesh emphasized their constant support for the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, led by Yasir 'Arafat.

The two sides pledged to safeguard the ICO's principles. They demanded an immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. The two sides expressed their deep concern over the continuing Irani-Iraq war.

The Bangladesh foreign minister left Cairo this afternoon following a 3-day visit to Egypt.

Doha Departs 17 March

NC171619 Cairo MENA in English 1505 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 17 (MENA) — The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Aminur Rahman Shamsud Doha left here this afternoon for Baghdad, following a 2-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Minister Shamsud Doha also had talks with Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who saw him off at the airport. The talks dealt with the Mideast, Palestine, Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war.

Sudanese Information Minister Salihin Departs Cairo

NC162108 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA) — Sudanese Information Minister Muhammad Khawjali Salihin left Cairo for Khartoum this evening after a 4-day visit to Egypt. During his visit he met with Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state for information, who saw him off at the airport.

In a pre-departure statement, the Sudanese minister said that his visit was successful and its objectives were accomplished. He added that an agreement was reached to publish the *WADI AN-NIL* magazine in Ramadan. He said they discussed the strengthening of cultural and informational relations between the two countries.

Butrus Ghali Meets With French Minister Cheysson

For Paris reportage on the visit to France by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali, including his 16 March meeting with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, see the France section of the 19 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Armed Forces Issues Communique No 1,409 — 19 March

JN191717 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,409 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 19 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With great enthusiasm and heroic determination, the brave sons of our Armed Forces are continuing their valiant fighting against the invading aggressors. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. At dawn today, a force belonging to our brave forward units raided the enemy positions opposite our positions east of Basra, using all types of weapons. It destroyed a number of the enemy's infantry positions, killed or wounded a number of troops, and forced the rest to flee. Elsewhere in the same sector, one enemy vehicle, one observation post, and one weapons emplacement were destroyed.

2. A number of our bold fighter planes attacked enemy targets opposite our forward units' positions east of Basra this morning, scoring direct and effective hits. All our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. One of our forward units carried out an operation against the enemy positions opposite our positions in the east Tigris operational area. It pounded the enemy positions with all types of weapons, scoring direct hits and setting them on fire. One enemy soldier was also killed.

4. One was killed and one heavy machine gun was destroyed and its crew killed in the Maysan sector.

5. One vehicle and two personnel positions were destroyed in the northern sector of the battlefield.

6. Yesterday evening and today, the criminal Khomeyniite regime shelled Basra and Mandali and their environs with heavy artillery. The savage enemy shelling wounded three civilians, damaged two houses and one civilian building, and started a fire in a mosque in Basra; and damaged one civilian car in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 March 1984

Two Border Agreements Signed With Jordan

JN191652 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received here today Sulayman 'Arar, Jordanian deputy prime minister and interior minister. They discussed bilateral relations and the Arab situation.

'Arar reiterated Jordan's support for Iraq in its defense of Arab rights against the Iranian regime's ambitions. Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and minister of interior; the secretary of the president; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

In another development, Iraq and Jordan signed an agreement for fixing the international borders between both countries. Sa'dun Shair, RCC member and minister of interior, signed the agreement on the Iraqi side, and Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and minister of interior signed the agreement on the Jordanian side.

The agreement includes fixing and demarcating the borders between both fraternal countries, and installing the borders' milestones in accordance with the coordinates' lists prepared by the joint technical committees.

Two protocols were also signed; one of them to organize the authorities at the borders; and the other to organize grazing, transportation, and utilization of water in the common border areas.

President Meets USSR's Ryabov on Economic Ties

JN191727 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn today received Yakov Ryabov, CPSU Central Committee member and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, who is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, which was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, the two sides discussed the developed economic relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union and the means of bolstering them.

Ryabov, Delegation Depart 19 Mar

JN192035 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA) — Yakov Ryabov, CPSU Central Committee member and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and his delegation left Baghdad tonight at the end of a visit of several days to Iraq.

Ryabov led his country's delegation to the 14th session of the joint Iraqi-Soviet committee, which concluded its work here today. Ryabov also held talks with Iraqi officials and discussed with them the means of bolstering economic and trade cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union.

Radio Correspondent Visits Industrial Complex

JN192020 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Our correspondent in Baghdad, Hasan al-Khashif, today visited the 'Akashat industrial complex, where a Belgian expert working in the complex emphasized to him that it is impossible to produce chemical weapons in this phosphates industrial complex as alleged by Israel and Iran.

Israel Provides Iran With Arms, Equipment

JN191658 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] London, 19 Mar (INA)— Western diplomatic sources said here today that Israel has agreed to provide Iran with 200 106-mm caliber guns. In a statement to INA, the sources added that Israel has agreed to provide Iran with U.S.-made anti-tank rockets during May. The sources asserted that Iran has received from Israel various military equipment and weapons which cost more than $500 million.

The sources quoted U.S. intelligence reports as saying that Israel has provided Iran with military weapons and equipment it plundered during its recent invaasion of Lebanon.

Tariq 'Aziz Confers With Bangladesh Counterpart

JN181704 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha discussed here today the current situation in the Arab region and bilateral relations.

'Aziz explained in details to the Bangladesh foreign minister Iraq's efforts to find a peaceful and just solution to the war launched by the Iranian regime and Iran's aggressive attempts to occupy Iraqi territory since Iraq withdrew from Iranian territory in June 1982.

Ramadan, Doha Meet

JN181740 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1512 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received A.R. Shamsud Doha, foreign minister of Bangladesh. Ramadan expressed Iraq's satisfaction with the good, developing relations with Bangladesh because of the strong, historical relations between the two countries. He valued the work of the Bangladesh companies and workers in Iraqi development projects despite the war circumstances, pointing out that Iraq is concerned about developing its relations with Bangladesh in the service of the two people's interests.

Ramadan reviewed the dimensions of the Iraqi-Iranian war and Iraq's peaceful efforts that stem from its responsible, humanitarian considerations and from its desire for the region to remain in peace. He pointed out that the aggressive Iranian regime on the other hand insists on continuing the war.

The Bangladesh foreign minister expressed his satisfaction with the development of the two countries' relations and his country's desire to expand and develop these relations further. He expressed his country's readiness to continue its participation in implementing Iraqi development projects. He valued Iraq's efforts for peace, its positive response to all international endeavors, and its acceptance of the UN resolutions. He also expressed his country's desire to continue efforts to realize peace and end this war.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Bangladesh ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides discussed means of strengthening and promoting bilateral cooperation.

Doha Leaves for Baghdad

JN182014 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1934 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — A.R. Shamsud Doha, foreign minister of Bangladesh, left Baghdad for Kuwait tonight at the end of a short visit to Iran during which he delivered a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Bangladesh President Ershad. In a statement to INA before departure, Doha expressed hope that the Iraqi-Iranian war will end, affirming Bangladesh's support for the Iraqi people in efforts to realize just peace in the region.

National Assembly Speaker Receives British Delegation

JN171033 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) — Talks began here today between a delegation from the Iraqi National Assembly under Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad and a delegation from the British Labor and Conservative Parties in the British House of Commons, which is currently on a visit to Iraq.

During these talks, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on Arab and international issues, the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Palestinian cause, and the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. They also reviewed Iraqi-British relations, specifically parliamentary relations.

Na'im Haddad said that he hopes that this visit would contribute toward strengthening relations between the two countries in all fields. He added: We look forward to more meetings like this to discuss international issues, including the issues in the Arab region, and to exchange views on these issues.

During the meeting with the British delegation, Na'im Haddad called on all peace-loving forces to condemn Iran, support Iraq's stands and its peace initiatives, and to put pressure on the Tehran rulers to have them halt this war and respond to the peace calls. Na'im Haddad stressed Iraq's eagerness and desire to promote its relations with the countries in the world which support the Arabs legitimate and just rights in such a manner that will be in the interest of Iraq and these countries. The British House of Commons delegation valued Iraq's peace stands and its response to all the calls for halting the war with Iran, and expressed hope that peace would be established between the two countries in service of peace and security in the region and the world. The delegation also expressed anxiety over the continuation of this war. The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by the deputy assembly Speaker Baha' ad-Din Ahmad, Assembly Secretary 'Abd al-Qadir 'Abd ar-Razzaq, and the chairman and members of the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee in the Iraqi National Assembly.

The British delegation comprises Alexander Richard and (Jim Avar) from the Conservative Party, and Robert Parry, and Andrew Faulds from the Labor Party.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Hungary

JN161122 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA) — Iraq and Hungary this evening signed an agreement for cooperation between the Ministries of Interior in the two countries.

The agreement was signed on the Iraqi side by Interior Minister Sa'dun Shakir, and on the Hungarian side by Hungarian Interior Minister Istvan Horvath.

The agreement specified the means of cooperation between the organs of the two ministries in order to guarantee the exchange of experties in the technical and training fields in the interest of the two friendly countries.

Ramadan Receives Somali Official 17 Mar

JN171920 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, this afternoon received Deputy Somali Foreign Minister Dr Mohamed Ali Hamed. The first deputy prime minister stressed Iraq's concern about promoting fraternal and cooperation relations with fraternal Somalia in all fields.

Dr Mohamed Ali Hamed reiterated Somalia's support for Iraq in its defensive war against the Iranian forces of aggression.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Somali ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides discussed the means of promoting bilateral relations, and Arab and international issues of common interest.

Ramadan Receives Letter From France's Mauroy

JN181700 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has received a written message from French Premier Pierre Mauroy. The message was delivered to Ramadan in Baghdad today by French Ambassador in Baghdad Paul Auguste Germain Depis.

In his message, Mauroy expressed his satisfaction with the results of Ramadan's recent visit to France and his optimism that the Iraqi-French relations will witness increasing progress in the service of the people in the two countreis.

Ramadan asserted that the Iraqi-French talks, which were held in Paris recently, will have great impact on the two countries' relations in the future and will lead to the promotion of these relations to reach the level which the leaders in the two countries want them to reach in order to serve the interests of the people in Iraq and France.

Soviet Friendship Society Celebrates Anniversary

JN161135 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow, 15 Mar (INA) — The Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society celebrated here this evening the 25th anniversary of the conclusion of the first economic agreement between Iraq and the USSR.

(?Kajanov), first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, delivered a speech on this occasion in which he praised the developing economic relations between the USSR and Iraq, particularly after the 17 July 1968 revolution. He affirmed his country's concern over strengthening them. He enumerated the big projects of economic and industrial cooperation that were accomplished according to the concluded agreements as well as the various aspects of cultural and scientific cooperation between the two friendly countries. Furthermore, he praised Iraq's historical decisions concerning oil nationalization as well as the Iraqi-Soviet cooperation in the fields of oil industries and electric power.

(?Kajanov) touched on the Iraq-Iranian war, expressing his country's reget for its continuation, and affirmed the USSR's attitude toward this war, which stresses the need to end it and to resolve the conflict peacefully through negotiations.

Sa'd 'Abd al-Majid al-Faysal, Iraqi ambassador in Moscow, made a speech on this occasion in which he affirmed that Iraq's revolution has sought, since 17 July 1968, developing and deepening relations with the Soviet people. He explained that the Iraqi- USSR political relations reached their peak in April 1972 when the two countries concluded the agreement of friendship and cooperation. This is in addition to concluding several economic and technical agreements — the first of which was that of the national investment in the northern Ar-Rumaylah oil fields in 4 July 1969. He also emphasized that several agreements on joint industrial projects were concluded between the two countries. He said that Iraq will not forget the stand of the friendly USSR toward bringing about the success of the famous oil nationalization decision in June 1972.

The Iraqi ambassador noted that the great development in the Iraqi-Soviet relations and Iraq's firm policy and independent course did not meet the satisfaction of the imperialist and Zionist powers and their agents. He affirmed that since the beginning of the revolution, Iraq had been subjected to numerous conspiracies, which were foiled by the Iraqi people. He emphasized that the continuing Iranian agreession is a link in a series of plots against the revolution, alluding to the fact that Iraq has responded to all peaceful calls of international and regional organizations to end the conflict, while the Iranian side had been pursuing its escalating aggressions that aim at hampering Iraq's cultural progress and subjecting the region to external threats.

The celebration, which included a show of national Iraqi industries and photographs of Iraq as well as Soviet artistic pieces, was attended by a number of Arab ambassadors accredited to the USSR, members of the Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society, Iraqi Embassy staff, Iraqi community members, and Iraq's friends in Moscow.

Baghdad Celebration Held

JN180747 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) — The Iraq-Soviet Friendship Society has celebrated the 25th anniversary of the signing of the first agreement for economic and technical cooperation between Iraq and the USSR.

A celebration was held here tonight on this occasion. Attending the celebration were 'Abd al-Fattah Amin, chairman of the Union of Societies for Friendship with Peoples; Subhi Yasin, minister of industry and minerals; Yakov Ryabov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; the members of the joint Iraqi-Soviet committee for technical, scientific, and economic cooperation; the USSR ambassador in Baghdad; a number ofambassadors in Baghdad; the secretary general; the members of the Union of Iraqi Friendship Societies; a multitude of citizens; and the USSR community in Iraq.

Dr Najih Muhammad Khalil, chairman of the Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society delivered a speech on this occasion in which he referred to the 16 March 1959 agreement. He said that this agreement was the first economic and technical cooperation agreement between Iraq and the USSR and that the friendship and cooperation treaty which was signed on 9 April 1972 represents a development in this cooperation which is based on equality between the two sides.

Ryabov also delivered a speech in which he pointed to the relations of cooperation between the USSR and Iraq which are based on the April 1959 friendship and cooperation treaty. He said that the USSR firmly supports ending the Iraq-Iran war as soon as possible, that the continuation of this war would lead to the exhaustion of economic resources, and that the only winner of the continuation of this war is imperialism and its puppets in the world.

King Husayn Gives Interview to CBS Television
LD182146 Amman Television Service in English 2014 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Interview with King Husayn by Lesley Stahl in the CBS 18 March "Face the Nation" program — video recorded]

[Text] [Stahl] Your Majesty King Husayn, thank you very much for being with us on "Face the Nation" this morning. In an interview you granted this week to *THE NEW YORK TIMES* you said that the United States is unprincipled, that we have lost our credibility, and that the United States can no longer act as an honest broker in the Mideast. What made you decide to lash out so bitterly at this point in time against the Reagan administration?

[Husayn] To begin with I did not lash out against the Reagan administration as such. I lashed out, if that is the right expression to use, against an evolving situation in the United States over many years. I do not think that any one could claim to be more of a friend in this area to the United States or more of a believer in the fact that, as far as we saw it, we had principles that we were proud to uphold and ideas that we strove to uphold in this world and the cause of the friendship between us. But, unfortunately, we have seen an erosion of the United States' position in regard to the major issue in this area, because of instability in it; root cause of instability is the Arab-Israeli issue over the years. The situation since 1967 is entirely different from what it is right now, and it, unfortunately, has reached a point where it is very dangerous for all of us to keep quiet about it any more.

[Stahl] You say there has been an erosion of the U.S. position. Are you talking about the United States failure in Lebanon, and is that really what is behind your statement?

[Husayn] I am referring to the foundation for any solution to the problem, as recognized by the five permanent members of the Security Council, the Security Council Resolution 242, and which is suggested to be the foundation for any possible move toward the establishment of peace by the United States itself. Yet, let us take the events of the recent past. President Reagan had an initiative in the first of September 1982. Israel shot it down immediately. I could have done the same 2 days later. It is I who kept it alive, I feel, probably more so than any in this world throughout these years, trying to give it life, trying to see what we could do to build on it, so that we finally achieve our objective of peace. Israel, subsequently, responded to the President's initiative by the settlement activities in the occupied territories, continued occupation of part of Lebanon, and eventually new plans to reallocate people into the Jordan valley, which is the first step toward pushing them out, especially when Israel claims that the Palestinian problem is a problem of people not of land, had now trying to institute Israeli land laws in terms of the occupied territory. And as a result, I do not see where we are going. We are facing a problem where another short period of time would see things so changes in the area and on the ground that there is no hope for any progress toward peace at all.

[Stahl] You have given clear, sent a clear message that you think that the Reagan peace plan is finished, and that you are trying to blame the United States for this, for not pressuring Israel; where American officials believe that what has really happened is that the United States' policy failed in Lebanon, and that you are reacting more to that because our position toward Israel has not changed at all in the past year or so; what has really changed is the situation Lebanon, or as you say the situation on the ground.

[Husayn] Lebanon is a part of a series of events. And if I suggest that the United States' position has changed certainly in the eyes of all in this area, on the Arab side, and this is to my very deep regret, it has done so, o.k., I will [sentence incomplete] the situation is not one that I could attribute to the administration. I certainly have the highest respect for the President. I personally get along with him very, very well. I respect him as a man, I respect him as a man of principle, as a man of courage. In fact his initiative was a courageous one. And I have said that. But it seems that on the American scene, there are other considerations, and there are other pressures. And, therefore, there is no clear policy, there is not the ability to maintain a clear line. Let us take the question of settlements. We had a draft resolution at the Security Council. It was shot down by an American veto. Settlements in the occupied territories is a very clear issue. These settlements are illegal.

Now I tried recently to see if we could work out something where we could have another resolution before the world body, but unfortunately, it turned out that again there is opposition to that, and then this president made a statement to the effect that settlements and the continuation of their being built up in the occupied territories is an impediment towards a final solution, but what does that mean? Does that stop the Israelis from building these settlements with American help, American financing? It does not, unfortunately, and more and more obstacles are created in the path of peace. This is what is happening.

[Stahl] Now if Prime Minister Shamir of Israel announced today that he would freeze the building of settlements, would you then agree to talk to the Israelis? Would you go to Israel? would you go to a third country and open negotiations?

[Husayn] The question is about the premise. We wanted, and we still want, to know what the U.S. position is regarding its responsibility as a major power and as a party that wants to contribute to helping those on the ground move towards peace. We know the Israeli position. The Israeli position...

[Stahl interrupting] But King Husayn you say you want the settlements stopped. I ask you if freezing the settlements will get you to the negotiating table and you start talking about the United States again. Why won't you say if the settlements stop I will negotiate?

[Husayn] The settlement stopping is not all that we are seeking; it is something that must happen, but on the other hand the Israeli attitude as far as I am concerned is that what is yours is mine, and we'll negotiate unconditionally about everything else. The principle is the matter, the equation as a whole is total withdrawal for total peace of occupied territories. When they say that this territory is theirs, then there is nothing that we can do, there is nothing to talk about.

[Stahl] Have you decided not to negotiate with the Israelis? It sounds as though you are not willing right now to say the settlements stop I'll talk to them.

[Husayn] The settlements stop and that is all. What about the Palestinians, for example. We are in a position where we need the Palestinians to be a party to any progress towards a solution. The Palestinian problem is a problem that we are trying to deal with, and we in Jordan are trying our very best to put our act together to cooperate Jordanians and Palestinians who face the same problem, the same challenges, the same threats, and to have the objective of establishing peace in this area. Yet, the Israelis refuse to give these Palestinians a chance to express themselves. They say that they would like to dialogue with people in the occupied territories, yet these people in the occupied territories who are basically Jordanian citizens or people who are the responsibility of Egypt in the years before the war, cannot move, cannot come out, cannot express themselves, cannot say anything. Their human rights are denied and this really, we do not know how to get over in any formal way.

[Stahl] King Husayn, there are some people in the Reagan administration who believe that you are now saying what you are saying because you've decided not to negotiate. You are raising impossible demands. You are talking about the settlements, but if someone says to you if the Israelis freeze, you still have other demands. You are blaming the United States when in fact what you have done is decided not to negotiate because the Americans have pulled out in Lebanon and you are now greatly fearful of Syria, and you have found it safer to denounce the United States than to go along with the United States plan for peace. Is that fair?

[Husayn] That's very unfair, its very incorrect, and if anyone has worked for peace in this area, it is this country, and myself I have been proud of that throughout the many years that have passed, I am still committed to the cause of a just and durable peace in this area, but this is what eludes us and it does so through Israeli intransigence and I am telling you the Israelis refused the Reagan plan. Tell me that they have accepted it.

[Stahl] No, but when I ask you if they agree to freeze the settlements, you will have other demands for entering the negotiations.

[Husayn] All these demands and positions are very well known in Washington. I have not hidden my feelings about every issue. I have tried to analyze the situation. I have tried to place before our friends all the problems that we face. I have tried to smoothly passage for the possibility of making progress towards a solution to this problem as best as any human being could have done.

[Stahl] You say that you have great admiration for Ronald Reagan, and you complained that he would do nothing in an election year, and yet he went before an American Jewish audience and appealed for the arm sales for your country before this ground in an election year, and the very next day you came out and said that the United States was unprincipled and basically attacked his policies. Why did you choose to do that the very next day after he did what he considered a politically courageous move?

[Husayn] This is not a response to any statement that the President might have made, but speaking of principles, the very issue of Jerusalem, and the removal of the capital or the establishment of Jerusalem as a capital of Israel in this period of time. I question our American friends throughout the United States, is this an issue based on principle or is it just an election ploy? This is the kind of situation that we are...

[Stahl interrupting] But it is not President Reagan's.

[Husayn continues] Well, I am not talking about President Reagan and I did not attack President Reagan, and furthermore, one of your questions refers to whether Jordan is afraid of or intimidated by others. Jordan has stood head high in the face of all kinds of challenges and threats from near and far and Jordan does not bow before storms. We believe in what we stand for and as far as the issue of a just and lasting peace in this area; it is the dearest objective we have.

[Stahl] Husni Mubarak of Egypt came to the United States and publicly embarassed President Reagan at the White House, and then you give this interview to *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, which has the same effect of embarassing the President. Is there any kind of concerted move amongst the moderate Arabs to move away from the United States and even embarass Ronald Reagan to demonstrate you independence?

[Husayn] No, this is not the case. I believe that if there is any move away it is by the United States away from its friends and away from its basic interests in this area and not by us. We are simply putting our case across and our problem is not with Ronald Reagan nor is it with a few friends that we might have in Washington. Our problem is that there is a campaign in the United States that has reached a very high pitch as a tremendous change since 1956, when a President in an election year took a position against not only Israel but two of America's closest allies on principle. Unfortunately, the power with the President probably has eroded during these years due to a concerted effort that influences Congress and the Senate and influences the American public, and we cannot unfortunately compete with that so far, but we are certainly determined not to leave the arena for Israel alone and the Zionist movement and the Aipac, and we have a strong case which we hope we will put across and what we are trying to do is to point out these dangers in point of fact.

[Stahl] You are talking about the Israeli lobby Aipac. Well, now you know you have given this interview, and I assume from what you are saying you are hoping to influence American public opinion, but it seems at least in Congress that what you have done is producing a backlash, that its backfiring on you and that Congress may not give you the arms sales becasuse of the interview you gave to *THE NEW YORK TIMES*.

[Husayn] I made it very clear before, when this whole issue was discussed, of our legitimate needs for our own self-defense that if this was to become a sordid one, where the dignity of my country was in jeopardy, then thank you very much, we do not need the arms. We need then very, very badly but not at this kind of price, and we have been pulled about sufficiently enough in this way that if the price is really for the dignity of Jordan to be affected, then it is too big a price for us to pay. In any event, prove

me wrong. I have pointed out a view. You hear Israeli views all the time, and obviously I have pointed out my feelings towards our friends at this crucial moment. What is the reaction caused by? I could be ignorant or it could be the influence of Aipac once again. And I do not think that in that case the problem is with us here. It is the dignity of the United States that is at stake and it is probably for you to assess who is causing a damage in this way.

[Stahl] We we also hear that the interview has so angered the administration that it may not even fight for the arm sales.

[Husayn] Well, prior to my interview, our assessment was that it did not have much of a chance in any event because of the very strong influences of Israel and the Israeli lobby in Washington.

[Stahl] Including possibly, the Soviet Union?
[Husayn] We will consolidate within our own country. We will continue to put as our top priority the Jordanian-Palestinian dimension and trying to look into the future in a realistic way as to how we should work; what our future should be as members of one family, what this will have in the way of an impact within the Arab world and the world as a whole and look at what is possible. We believe that in terms of a solution to the problem if the situation is as we see it right now and it does not change, the only chances would be with the world, with these permanent members of the Security Council maybe in the future, as far as our legitimate needs to defend ourselves, if you turn us down, we are going to remain exposed to danger. We will look anywhere and wherever we can get our needs we will try to secure them.

[Stahl] Let me ask you something. Given the reaction and the way your comments have been interpreted in Washington, Do you have any regrets about what you told the *NEW YORK TIMES*?

[Husayn] Regret. I do not know why I should regret it. I believe that let us say wait another year with things deteriorating as they are and there is not much hope for any of us in this area and the United States loses a lot. It was a time that requires us to be frank and open with our friends and I did just that.
[Stahl] Just tell me, as we end this interview, your assessment of what Syria wants and how dominant Asad is now in the Middle East?

[Husayn] I suppose that is for others to observe. We have very serious points of difference with Syria so far over the treatment of Lebanon, for example and the Lebanese question; over the Iraq-Iran war, and their attitude which has disrupted or helped disrupt the Arab ranks in terms of what could have been, should have been, the case; in terms of the Arab League Charter ad the united Arab defense commitments, that the Arab world stood together in the face of any threat to it. And we certainly have an issue with them over what we see as increasing and enhancing, together with Israel on the other hand, the chances for polarization in this area, which is dangerous to us; our freedom is at stake, our identity as a people, the future of generations to come, and various negative attitudes towards anything that means progress toward the establishment of a just and durable peace, and their attitude in particular toward the Palestinians and the PLO, their attempts to dominate the scene there.

[Stahl] When you were in Washington, didn't you tell officials here that you were very concerned that Syria would make some kind of move against Jordan, whether it was an actual invasion or continued terrorist attacks, that you were deeply concerned about it?

[Husayn] We are placed in the vicinity of Israel and Syria. Both have alliances with two superpowers. And in terms of fact, well, in 1970, we faced a Syrian invasion, which is well known. In 1980 we nearly faced the same, and God knows what might happen in the future. We have legitimate needs to defend ourselves against all threats. And wherever a threat develops, we will use whatever is available to us to defend ourselves.

[Stahl] I am going to ask you a very tough question, and I hope you will be very candid with us. How confident are you that if Syria does make a move against your country, whether it is an actual invasion or some kind of a terrorist threat, that the United States would fully, 100 percent, back you up?

[Husayn] We've never asked the United States to come and fight our battles, or any one in the world. But we have sought to enhance our capabilities to defend ourselves against all threats. And I believe that this country and the people of Jordan have enough guts to stand up and do their best in the face of any threat. However, we have a problem, we have a problem.

[Stahl] Would you not ask the United States for help, and do you feel you could count on the United States?

[Husayn] If you are referring to help in terms of coming here to fight for us, no, we would never ask the United States to do that. But we have always asked throughout the world to see if we could find what we need to enhance our own capability to defend ourselves. Nothing more, nothing less.

[Stahl] *THE NEW YORK TIMES* reporter who interviewed you described you as being in a state of political despair. Are you that discouraged about the situation?

[Husayn] I am discouraged in many respects, and I am particularly discouraged over one very important area. I believe that the Palestinianas, the silent majority, is not silent any more. The body that matters is in the occupied territories, in the West Bank, and in Gaza. I am very discouraged with the determination by Israel and the lack of ability obviously by others to influence Israel to permit these people to express themselves. This is very vital if we are to move towards addressing the problems squarely. And I believe I find an identity of interest apparantly between two extremes: Israelis on the one hand, and those who don't want a solution on the Arab side in preventing Palestinians from voicing their opinions or expressing themselves. And this is a very, very distressing situation that we do face.

[Stahl] King Husayn we are running out of time; one last fast question: Do you want to negotiate with the Israelis?
[Husayn] I want certainly to make my fullest contribution to the establishment of peace, I realize we have to address that through a negotiation at some stage but we want the kind of conditions, the foundations on which we can conduct a meaningful negotiation.

[Stahl] Would you like to negotiate with them, do you want to, is that your goal? and we are running out of time.

[Husayn] Well, obviously, we want a solution to the problem, and we already realize Israel is there, we accept that, but we want our rights, and we want a basis for negotiations, and we can't find it so far.

[Stahl] Your majesty, thank you very much for being with us this morning.
[Husayn] Thank you so much, pleasure.

Comment Supports Husayn, Decries U.S. Role

Principles Reasserted

JN191234 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Mar 84 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "The Cause Is the Measure"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has reasserted the bases and principles of the firm Jordanian stand toward a number of issues which concern the region, foremost being the situation in the occupied Arab territories which has reached a serious stage over which one cannot remain silent in view of the Israeli escalation which is political and militarily backed by Washington.

In a comprehensive and frank interview yesterday with the CBS network, his majesty made clear that the United States, which considers the settlements as illegitimate and an obstruction to peace in the region, has used the veto to block a resolution in the UN Security Council which calls for stopping the settlement activity. Washington overlooked Israel's building of more settlements. This shows without doubt the U.S. bias to Israel and its inclination toward Israeli policies of arrogance and aggression.

Israel went even further in its arrogance by refusing the Reagan initiative as soon as it was announced. Israel embarked upon an intensive settlement campaign as a direct challenge to the U.S. Administration. On top of all this, Israel, in the context of a reply to the U.S. initiative, put forward new plans to transfer Palestinian citizens to the Jordan valley as a first step toward expelling them from the land of their forefathers, it also intends to implement the Israeli real estate law in the occupied territories. The U.S. Administration must surely realize that these aggressive practices and oppressive measures are aimed at obstructing peace, let alone their primary objective which is to legalize the occupation and perpetuate the Judaization.

Based on these facts, the United States cannot shirk its responsibility toward the dangerous escalation and the exacerbation of the situation that has been reached in the region under Washington's continued bias toward the Israeli side, and its relinquishing of the basic principles that it preaches, not to mention that it has long term interests in the region.

Washington, with its shortsighted and shallow Middle East policy does not value the principles that should be the firm basis for relations between states. It does not pay the slightest attention to its role as a superpower that is responsible for preserving international peace and security.

There can be no reliance or dependance on the credbility of the U.S. policy in the region which is characterised by its complete bias toward Israel, especially since we are now seeing, in the heat of the current U.S. president elections, our great issues being used as a card for outbidding in the market.

Jordan, under the wise leadership of King Husayn, will not bend to the storms. it will remain standing tall in the face of all challenges and threats, working for the achievement of our just rights. To achieve this aim Jordan will make a maximum effort to face the same issues and the same threats in order to achieve the lasting peace based on legitimate Palestinian rights, fairness and justice in this troubled region of the world.

U.S. 'Slave' to Zionism

JN191957 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Mar 84 p 5

["Today's Word"; by Kamil ash-Sharif: "U.S. Policy and Arab Unanimity"]

[Excerpts] It has been necessary to wait for external reactions — particularly those of the United States — to His Majesty King Husayn's statements in order to complete all aspects of the picture. We can derive from U.S. comments that Americans have not learned anything from experience. There is no hope that they will learn a single thing. With his well-known refined manners, King Husayn referred to this regretable fact when he explained that U.S. policy "is not free any more because it has become a slave to Zionism" — whether through the strange U.S. relations with Israel or as a result of the complicated domestic equations in which the Zionist lobby plays the most dangerous roles.

Whoever listens to President Reagan, or to his competitors, flattering, promising, and reminding Jewish voters of the previous aid and services which the United States rendered to Israel, wonders whether this competition is actually for the U.S. presidency, the presidency of the Knesset, or a seat in the Haifa or Tel Aviv muncipalities. Thus, we stand before a country that thinks with Israel's mind, hears with the Jews' ears, and sees only through the Jews' eyes.

Upon reviewing the naive or mean U.S. reactions, a person will be reminded of our folklore stories where the excuse is worse than the guilt, and the justification of the sin is worse than the sin itself. Whenever an Arab leader expresses resentment toward U.S. policy's flagrant bias toward Israel, the Americans start reminding him of the duties of friendship and the advantages of moderation as well as the advantages of direct negotiations with Zionism. More than this, they even "put salt in the wound" — as the saying goes — and they do not feel any embarrassment in speaking about imaginary projects in which the national army helps in stabilizing the Gulf, not for the benefit of the Gulf and its inhabitants, but to protect the continued flow of oil to the "free world", as if this world has helped these inhabitants in ending injustice and achieving righteousness, and also as if this world has had a debit that these inhabitants should pay it back. Thus, the features of U.S. policy in the region are formed from these contradicting factors. It is not only the features of U.S. policy, but also the features of U.S. philosophy in dealing with humanity.

Every day that passes increases our conviction that our battle with the usurper enemy is a battle of beliefs rather than a battle of weapons and equipment. We are curently seeing the enemy's army retreating and shortening its lines before a small group of strugglers. When an Israeli soldier dies, mourning takes place, mothers and sisters demonstrate, and the Israeli Government sways before interrogations and protests. It has also been proven that even the armies and fleets of superpowers do not fight in order to defend others when the situation becomes grave and victims fall dead. What we are currently witnessing is the ideal image of the conflict in the future. Based on this, we wonder how the situation will be when our villages and cities turn into fortified castles, and when our male and female youth become experienced in the game of death and decide to be martyrs. An Arab-Islamic community of this type will make Israel forget the illusions of expansionism and convince the United States that the Arabs are human beings and have weight. It is a long and hard path, but who says that the great battles of history — and this is certainly one of them — can be won without paying its full price of hard work, efforts, and sacrifices?

International Solution Needed

JN191218 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Mar 84 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Cause, and the Necessity To Return to International Procedures"]

[Text] In his interivew with the CBS network yesterday, King Husayn asserted that the subject under re-evaluation and study on the Jordanian and Arab levels is U.S. policy in the Arab region and the U.S. stand on peace and the Palestinian question.

The continued retractions from the declared U.S. positions and abandoning the basic principles on which peace may be based stress that there is no clear U.S. policy toward the Middle East issue. The truth is that the Arab region has paid dearly for this continued confusion and the retractions in U.S. policy because Arab stands that are based on the belief in the possibility of finding a balanced U.S. stand that will help everyone in establishing a just peace have also faced frustration and failure because the United States in the end always succumbs to Israeli pressures. As King Husayn stresses, the erosion of the U.S. position and Washington's continued reversals in the face of Israel has resulted in allowing Israel to achieve its expansionist objectives in the occupied territories. The U.S. economic aid has become direct aid to expand the settlements.

Through U.S. financial and military aid, Israel has been able to change the situation on the ground and has succeeded in creating a new situation which makes peace unattainable. Israel has foiled all the declared aims of U.S. policy on the issue of peace. It also foiled the plans of the successive U.S. Administrations, the latest being the Reagan plan, which Israel not only rejected but replied to by expanding its settlement plan and by a military campaign to occupy Lebanon.

The U.S. reaction was only to retreat in the face of Israeli arrogance, support Israel's aims in Lebanon, and then to reverse its previous positions that denounced the settlements.

The Arabs cannot trust a policy that allies itself to aggression gives it international cover as well as expenses for its armed aggression and expenses for expansion on the land of the Arabs.

The United States has taken the Middle East crisis away from the United Nations and its resolutions, assuming on its own the guardianship of the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict and peace. The result was to give enough time for the Israeli plan that aims to swallow up Arab rights to claim ownership rights to all Arab lands, and to prepare for the expulsion of its Arab inhabitants.

While the United States succumbs to all the military and economic conditions and demands of Israel, it assumes evasive and degrading policies toward Arab friends, ignoring its basic interests in the Arab region and its role as a superpower which is supposed to honor its commitments to others.

Our Arab cause and the cause of Jerusalem have become issues for outbidding in the U.S. election campaign without any regard to the international principles and human rights on which these issues are based. The imbalance lies in the fact that the U.S. intentions toward the Arab region are not clear and are not sincere while the U.S. option for the establishment of a greater Israel at the expense of Arab land is clear.

That is why King Husayn had to call for a reassessment of the situation and a return to the international procedures in dealing with the cause by returning to Resolution 242 and the international umbrella and by reaffirming the impermissibility of forcible seizure of land and the principle of comprehensive peace in exchange for a comprehensive withdrawal. These principles have been applied in the unilateral treatment of the cause by the United States to one party and not the other.

U.S. 'Source' of Arab Region Woes, Disasters

JN191730 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Mar 84 p 28

["Seven Days" column by Fahd ar-Rimawi: "And Talk Has a Thousand Links"]

[Text] I swear by almighty God that I have always been moved with joy and admiration whenever I heard a man in any part of the world attack the U.S. policy and its imperialist arrogance. I also swear that I have always looked down on any person whom I saw flirting with the United States or favoring and defending its policy. The United States is the source of malady and the principal evil responsible for all the woes, disasters, and setbacks to which mankind in general and the Arab nation in particular have been afflicted for half a century, and will continue to be afflicted until its absolutism is over and until its terrible despotism is eliminated.

In terms of the balance of civilized behavior, the United States is neither a superpower nor a big power in which the manifestations of greatness and the values of justice, benevolence, and beauty prevail. It is a black destiny perched over this planet or an ugly curse blemishing the forehead of this age. It is governed by the whims of the monopolist capital, moved by a desire for an industrial-military alliance, and ruled by instincts of belligerence, hot-headedness, distaste,and lack of human conscience.

It is first and foremost a sponge of interests without any principles, a muscular body without a heart, a kinetic energy without creativity, or a superstitious wagon dragged by a Zionist horse or donkey.

Because it is racist in its trend, pragmatic in its viewpoint, and imperialist in its inclination and identity, it is void of virtues and other noble ideals and values. It is the captive of its greedy interests, its exploitative quality, and its hegemonistic, hostile nature — a matter which has placed it in a position that antagonizes the struggling peoples and has turned it into a political crematorium that harms its friends more than its enemies, and that works hard to turn allies into tools and agents of whom it can dispense when their roles end or become exposed.

The U.S. love — as it is called — has fallen in the mill of our pens. At last we have the suitable chance that we have long awaited, not only to unleash the largest possible campaign of condemnation, defamation, and instigation against the U.S. enemy, but also to push ahead the wheel of complete alienation and blatant enmity between our Arab world and those who dealt with us throughout many decades as political beggars asking their favor and alms.

We are today, as we were yesterday and as we will always be, calling with the highest possible voice for translating slogans and words into deeds in order to strike at all the U.S. interests throughout the large homeland, and to hold dialogue with the Americans with weapons using all that we possess because they are the principal base of aggression. The frail Zionist entity, which is eaten away by crises and defeated by some resistance heroes in Lebanon, is only an appendix or side arm of U.S. imperialism which is providing it with funds and weapons to boost its entity and protect its conquests.

We call with our highest voices for overcoming Arab differences and for building a unified pan-Arab stand comprising Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and the Arab Gulf states as a first stage, during which both funds and men are mobilized for the sake of beginning political and military pressure on the Zionist enemy — as the beginning of this enemy's end has become clear — and on the U.S. enemy, which is suffering from the bankruptcy of its policy and from the deterioration of its influence in the Middle East.

We also call for reuniting what has been severed between the peak and the base, or between the ruler and the ruled in all the Arab countries for the sake of bolstering the intrinsic capabilities and discharging the national potential. It has been proven under all circumstances that people are the support, the hope, and the great asset. It has also been proven through experience that depending on the foreign forces, or seeking the help of outside quarters is no more than a mirage or an attempt to grab the wind. Amin al-Jumayyil's experience is the best example in this regard.

The general popular mobilization or the large-scale preparation of the masses is the logical reply to the Israeli-U.S. haughtiness and the great asset in case of offense and defense. This mobilization is the high platform which makes leaders great and the strong fence which protects the homeland throughout history.

Finally we call, also with our highest voices, for bolstering our international alliances with the friends in the Soviet Union, the PRC, and both the Islamic and nonaligned states. We are the heirs of the old Arab saying that we befriend those who befriend us, and antagonize those who antagonize us. It is illogical to antagonize those who befriend us or befriend those who antagonize us. We do not know how to describe, classify, or deal with the refusal of some Arab countries to establish diplomatic relations with the socialist states at a time when the majority of these states are still severing their relations with the Zionist entity.

The mirage of a peaceful settlement has reached its end. We are now standing on the threshold of a new stage whose most prominent features must be well realized and identified by us. Our accounts with the United States will take long to settle, and talk has a thousand links.

'Ubaydat Stresses Arab Unity, Understanding

JN200825 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Mar 84 pp 1, 23

[Ibrahim Abu Nab Dispatch]

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat expressed hope for a solid and unified Arab stand to support the joint Jordanian-Palestinian stand on the peace issue in the region and the just Arab cause in Palestine.

'Ubaydat said that the cohesion of the internal front in Jordan and the building of a productive economy are the necessary bases for the Jordanian military arm which is capable of pushing harm away from this homeland and confronting the future challenges. This came an interview with Ibrahim Abu Nab for *AR-RA'Y*, and the *AL-BAY AL-'ARABI* magazine.

In response to a question about the significance of His Majesty King Husayn's interview with the U.S. CBS network, he said: Of course, I cannot add to what His Majesty King Husayn has said, given that his majesty is the first official in this country and has spoken as an official with responsibility.

'Ubaydat added: However, the Jordanian stand as expressed by His Majesty King Husayn is not completely new to the Americans. Throughout the years we have never stopped trying to explain this stand. He said that they know this stand well and have it on record, and if some ask about the timing, we did not chose the time to open the file — they chose it. What His Majesty King Husayn has proposed is the sum of all Jordan's stands.

Regarding Palestinian-Jordanian relations, 'Ubaydat said: We are proceeding together in a joint effort to achieve the pan-Arab objectives. We hope that our Arab brothers will understand and support this stand. He said: The matter is not as easy as some would imagine. It needs concentrated effort to remove the misunderstanding, and we have no need to talk about the so-called Arab fragmentation and differences, because focusing on such issues will be of no use. It would be better if we talk about the positive points and the possibilities of building Arab solidarity.

In response to a question about whether Jordan will try to keep away from the policies of blocs within the Arab world, he said: We prefer that there be one Arab bloc, one that we seek; and consequently, we seek to obtain Islamic and world support for our stand.

'Ubaydat expressed the hope that the American, European, and world peoples understand the just Jordanian stand toward the issues of peace. He said: We realize that some sides seek to escalate the differences with this or that superpower. However, we do not seek to escalate the differences. What we really desire is to gain the states' support for our stand on which we have spared no effort to point out and explain, as His Majesty King Husayn has said.

Regarding the internal situation, 'Ubaydat ruled out the possibility that parties and partisanship are some of the subjects bneing proposed regarding consultations and democratic participation. He said: Some rostrums have already been established and can be developed. We also seek greater development in the local press and information departments which would contribute toward deepening the concepts and methods of participation; for participation is not only in parliament and politics, but in all fields.

UN's Brian Urquhart Leaves Amman 19 Mar

JN200958 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — PETRA — Brian Urquhart, UN assistant secretary general for political affairs, left Amman yesterday following a visit of several days to Jordan. During the visit, he met with His Majesty King Husayn and a number of senior Jordanian officials and held talks on the importance of a UN role in achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

King Husayn Cables Numayri on Libyan Air Raid

JN191250 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri condemning and denouncing the air raid on Omduran that killed and wounded a number of innocent people and damaged various installations. His majesty expressed his wishes of fortitude and strength for the fraternal Sudanese people.

Further Reportage on Dialogue Conference

Disagreement Ends Session Early

OW200002 Hong Kong AFP in English 2334 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Lausanne, Switzerland, March 19 (AFP) — A plenary session of the Lebanese reconciliation conference was suspended after only 90 minutes here tonight because of disagreement over a draft final document, a spokesman for President Amin al-Jumayyil said.

Representatives of Lebanon's warring factions were to hold bilateral talks with Mr al-Jumayyil to try to solve the problems. The plenary session, which had resumed earlier after a 24-hour break, was to re-open tomorrow.

The spokesman, Michel Samaha, said the differences were over the sharing of power between the president, traditionally a Maronite Christian, and the prime minister, who under the Lebanese constitution must be a Sunni Moslem.

Franjiyah, Karami Positions Conflict

NC200954 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0910 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The atmosphere of optimism that prevailed during the ninth session of the Lausanne conference last night was dissipated by [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah's stands and his dispute with [former] Prime Ministers Rashid Karami and Sa'ib Salam.

Franjiyah Position Criticized

NC200736 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0653 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Observers were taken aback when the heads of delegations left last night's [dialogue conference] session without issuing any statement. Our correspondent in Lausanne has learned that [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah had strongly objected to any encroachment [al-massa] on the president's jurisdictions and to an enhancement of the prime minister's powers. He was supported in this by Camille Sham'un.

After the obstruction of the session and its postponement until today, due to Sulayman Franjiyah's position, sources close to Walid Junblatt said representatives of the ruling class and Lebanese rightists are trying to obstruct the conference. This, the sources added, has been demonstrated during the sessions in which the conferees were supposed to have achieved positive results. The same sources were surprised by the statements made by Franjiyah when he announced that he is not associated with the National Salvation Front and also when he outrightly — last night — expressed his objection to any encroachment on the president's powers. He also objected to the enhancement of the prime minister's powers.

The sources added that this action will not serve any future aspirations of the Lebanese factions. They asserted that the Lebanese regime, which is governed by shabby mentalities, will not be able to work out a solution or enable Lebanon to ride out its sectarian whirlpool. The sources said there is a vast difference between those who ruled Lebanon in accordance with the 1943 charter, which has been buried, and the aspirations of the new generation, including all Lebanese factions, who fought for the homeland.

In conclusion, the sources said the blood which is now being shed, belongs to the new generation, which is a victim of the shabby mentalities.

Conflict Over President's Powers

NC192325 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2254 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Dispatch from Radio Free Lebanon team in Lausanne]

[Text] The official plenary session of the national dialogue's committee ended its activities at 0015 Beirut time after 1 and a 1/2 hours of discussions on the working paper which was submitted by President Amin al-Jumayyil to the interlocuters following a long series of consultations and contacts with the heads of delegations, with the participation of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Saudi Minister Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mas'ud.

The time of the next session to be held tomorrow has not yet been fixed, pending the conclusion of peripheral bilateral and expanded consultations tonight and tomorrow to reach a solution to the knots and obstacles which have obstructed and are still obstructing the conference. According to preliminary information about the session, the two leaders of the Lebanese front and [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah rejected any amendments to the powers of the president of the republic.

Presidential political adviser Michel Samaha told reporters: [Begin recording] The national dialogue committee held a meeting tonight which lasted 1 and 1/2 hours. A final draft paper was submitted for debate at the conference with the hope that debate on it would end, and that it would be approved tonight. However, after starting debate on the paper, the dialogue committee agreed, upon the president's suggestion, to hold more bilateral consultations tonight and tomorrow morning preparatory to the holding of a new plenary session tomorrow. Some differences in views on some of the issues raised in this paper appeared. [end recording]

A source taking part in tonight's session told Free Lebanon radio that the paper was not submitted to all the delegations before the start of the session. The atmosphere became tense when the conferees started debating the provision connected with the powers of the prime minister. The source says that the powers [of the prime minister] as included in the paper equal if not exceed the powers of the president. In other words, the proposed sharing [of power] is no longer sharing but a violation of the basic rights of the president.

New Syrian Proposals Reported

NC192250 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The National Dialogue Conference has been debating a joint working paper. It has been reported that this paper has been approved by all heads of the delegations participating in the conference, including Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Saudi Minister Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mas'ud.

The news sources in Lausanne expect this session to be the last one. They expect the final statement, including the tenets which the conferees agreed upon, and which are connected with the political and security situations in Lebanon to be issued at the end of this session.

AFP reports from Lausanne tonight that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has submitted a group of proposals to the conferees to accept them the way they are or reject them part and parcel. AFP says it was difficult to learn the contents of these proposals, which were the subject of bilateral or tripartite consultations preparatory to their discussion at an expanded session, confined to the heads of the delegations alone.

AFP adds that according to information which has leaked, and which seems to be correct in content, the Syrian proposals aim in particular at solving most of the thorny problems which are obstructing the conference and which are represented in the abolition of sectarianism in the political system, and in the amendment to the election law with the object of distributing the chamber of deputies' seats in a more fair and just way.

The first problem is connected with laying down the basis for guaranteeing the gradual abolition of the sectarian structure or character of the Lebanese political system. The second problem is connected with the suggestion of the formation of a committee to be assigned the preparation of a new election law defining the number of deputies and the way they are elected and distributed according to community affiliation.

Further Meetings Planned

NC200845 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Intensive contacts and meetings will take place among the leaders at the National Dialogue Conference today in order to eliminate the obstacles that impeded the approval of the joint working paper presented by President Amin al-Jumayyil yesterday after his consultations with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Saudi Minister of State Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mas'ud.

It was hoped that the working paper would be approved yesterday after it was debated by the conferees; however, the disputes that arose, especially regarding the powers of the president and the prime minister, prompted Presidnet al-Jumayyil to adjourn the meeting for further contacts today in order to achieve common ground and close the viewpoints on the proposed subjects. Today's consultations are expected to be decisive with regard to the adoption of final positions and the determination of the fate of the conference.

No time has yet been set for convening the next session. However, observers in Lausanne believe that the session will most likely be held this evening to settle some of the pending points. It is expected that, if these points are resolved, an agreement on a unified working paper containing the provisions for the settlement of the Lebanese crisis in a final and complete manner will be declared.

Agreement on Working Paper

NC191724 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Reports say that [former] Chamber of Deputies Speaker 'Adil 'Usayran, [former] prime ministers Rashid Karami and Sa'ib Salam, and Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt have reached an agreement on a joint working paper comprised of five articles. This paper was considered a basis for reaching any agreement.

These articles are: abolishing political sectarianism in administrative and chamber of deputies' posts, giving the prime minister more powers, forming a senate with an equal number of Muslims and Christians, ending the state of war in Lebanon and amending the structure of the Lebanese Army.

RFL Reviews Working Paper

NC192239 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Dispatch from the Radio Free Lebanon team in Lausanne]

[Text] At 2207, the session that was expected to be the concluding one of the dialogue conference in Lausanne began.

The [working] paper submitted for discussion consists of 15 foolscap pages, and includes a preamble and a set of provisions. The paper stipulates the confirmation of the Geneva conference resolutions, particularly in connection with Lebanon's identity. It also raises the subject of the south. For example, the national unity government shall be charged with requesting the implementation of security arrangements with Israel. It will also request an increase in the number of UNIFIL troops. It also demands adherence to the UN Security Council resolutions.

[The paper stipulates] the establishment of a constituent assembly for a 1-year term by the national unity government. The assembly will represent all the influential personalities, parties and communities. The number of this assembly's members could amount to 40 or 50 persons. Its task will be to lay down studies on the envisioned reforms. With regard to [civil service] posts, the paper stipulates the abolition of sectarianism in posts — save for high-level posts — and for only a year, so far as high-level posts are concerned, until a balance is struck.

The paper also provides for the election of the prime minister by the chamber of deputies. The number of deputies shall be raised to 120, and it will be split equally between Muslims and

Christians. The paper stipulates the promulgation of a new election law, an expanded decentralized administration, the revision of legislative decrees, the promulgation of a new nationality law, the elimination of religion from identity cards, [words indistinct] of education, the revision of the law for the army and for the internal security forces and [words indistinct].

The discussions have begun. When will they end? [words indistinct] that they might perhaps end in the small hours of tomorrow morning.

Earlier Progress Reported

NC191605 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Some positive things have recently emerged from the dialogue conference in Lausanne. Our radio team sent us the following dispatch some 7 minutes ago:

[Begin recording] We are with you again, but with some optimism this time. We can now say that the conference has reached its final stages, which will result in tangible, positive things. A session will be held today, but its time has not yet been set. A statement will be read at the session. The contacts made so far will have (?eliminated) the objections to this statement. The conference is expected to conclude its work soon.

The constitutional document [al-wathiqah ad-dusturiyah] has been adopted as a basis for the final statement, in addition to emphasizing the (?conventional norm) and defining the powers of the council of ministers.

In addition, agreement will be reached on what the Voice of Lebanon referred to; namely, forming a national unity government as well as a higher security committee with headquarters in the republican palace to facilitate the security issues for the government. Another political committee will be formed to study the issue of political and constitutional reform.

Thus, the conference has bypassed the demands that have been submitted to it regarding the abolition of political sectarianism, the appointment of deputy prime ministers, and other proposals such as the federal state and others. The conference has adopted the constitutional document and stressed the [political] tradition ['urf].

Meanwhile, until the session that will inevitably be held today is held, however delayed — with the conferees expected to emerge from it with an agreement on the issues we have mentioned — a statement is currently being drafted and will be submitted to the conferees. It is expected that this session will not be delayed by obstacles or planted with mines.

This is the Voice of Lebanon team speaking to you from Lausanne. We will be with you again with new reports and developments, God willing. [end recording]

AFP Views Conference Developments

NC191720 Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 19 Mar 84

[By Mouna Nabaa]

[Text] Lausanne, Switzerland, March 19 (AFP) — Christian-Moslem differences today came sharply into the open one week into the Lebanese national reconciliation conference, shattering the opposition National Salvation Front, and causing Shi'ites, Sunnites and Druze to unite against Christian delegates.

A spectacular rapprochement came about between former Sunni Moslem Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam — who until today had stood for the moderate Moslem opposition — and the hardline Nabih Birri, head of the Shi'ite Amal Movement, during discussions yesterday on a document drawn up by President Amin al-Jumayyil. Both decided that Mr al-Jumayyil's proposals were so "negative" concerning the Moslem community's share of jobs in the Lebanese administration that Mr Salam rallied to Mr Birri's point of view and called for an end to the confessional [as received] system. The two then drew up a document during the night that they were to submit to the next plenary session.

The document's contents had not been revealed by this afternoon, but Mr Birri's aides said that it was similar to a reform plan drawn up by Mr Birri with Walid Junblatt, leader of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party, and that it above all stressed the prerogatives of the prime minister, traditionally a Sunni Moslem.

Meanwhile, the interests of the Christian community, and the Maronites in particular, caused former President Sulayman Franjiyah, until now one of the pillars of the Lebanese opposition, to join the Christian camp, insofar as the proposed reforms to Lebanese political life were concerned.

Today, Mr Franjiyah only differed with his former rivals, the Lebanese Front — coalition of Christian parties — on two points: the alliance with Israel, and the division of the country in whatever form, both of which he strongly rejected. Mr Franjiyah maintained his own reform proposals, drawn up when he was in power, and which call for a more equitable power-sharing between Moslems and Christians, with each community being allotted half the seats in the legislature and jobs in the civil service. He was also backing the Lebanese Front's refusal to amend the constitution in a way that would affect the Lebanese presidency (which traditionally goes to the Maronites), or the distribution of power on a confessional basis.

Salvation Front Called Dead

NC191319 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Telephone dispatch by Voice of Lebanon radio correspondents in Lausanne — live]

[Excerpts] The most prominent event in Lausanne today is the statement by former President Franjiyah that the National Salvation Front no longer exists because what was agreed upon in Damascus has not been applied here, and because the good atmosphere in Damascus has changed in Lausanne. This is what

former President Franjiyah stated to the SANA a short while ago. The statement, however, has not been published yet, and attempts are being made to keep it from being published.

Therefore, Lausanne's important event today is that the National Salvation Front no longer exists, following the emergence of differences among its members because of intransigent stands on basic proposals and nonadherence of the front's members to what was agreed upon in Damascus. This has been confirmed by former President Sulayman Franjiyah in a statement he made a short while ago. In his statement, Franjiyah declared that the front no longer exists, indicating that there is a prey, and that fighting is going on in Lausanne to share it.

Former President Franjiyah said the Salvation Front met for the first time in Zgharta and for the second and third time in Damascus. Regrettably, what was decided during the first meeting disappeared, and each member of the Salvation Front now speaks in the name of the front according to his whims.

Former President Franjiyah was asked: Didn't you agree on a certain formula before the conference? He replied: Before coming to Lausanne, we met in Damascus and agreed on certain matters. I am sorry to say that the change in climate has changed the thinking; the good climate in Damascus has changed in Lausanne. He was also asked: Now that the critical stage has been reached, is there an exit? He said: Yes, returning to what was agreed upon in Damascus. What was agreed upon in Damascus is Lebanon's identity and affilitation, the 17 May agreement, party hegemony, displaced people since 1975, the power-sharing formula, and the required reforms. He added that some of those who met in Damascus have forgotten or pretend to have forgotten what was agreed upon in the Salvation Front charter.

He was asked: Does this mean that the Salvation Front no longer exists? He said: In my opinion, yes.

Syria's Khaddam, Birri Confer

NC191824 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Contacts and consultations are continuing among the heads of delegations in Lausanne in preparation for convening a general session of the conferees later to study the proposals reached during these consultations.

Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam is at the moment meeting with Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri. They held a meeting this morning in the presence of Walid Junblatt. This meeting was followed by an expanded meeting attended by [former] chamber of deputies speaker 'Adil 'Usayran, [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, Khaddam, Birri, and Junblatt.

Franjiyah Comments on Conference Differences

GF181100 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0755 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Dubayy, 18 Mar (WAKH) — Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah has said that essential differences exist among the conferees in the Lebanese national conciliation conference that is being held in Lausanne, Switzerland. He said the differences concern three main points, while there is full agreement on ten points.

In a statement published in the newspaper *AL-BAYAN* today, he noted that the points of disagreement among the conferees concern three main issues: eliminating political sectarianism; the question of federalism and the cantons, because this issue represents a covert division; and the question of citizenship for those resident in Lebanon and for exiles.

He explained that the points of agreement are: conceding the proposal submitted by Junblatt, leader of the Socialist Progressive Party, regarding the formation of a senate; increasing the number of deputies to 150, to be shared equally by the Muslims and the Christians; cancelling sectarianism in jobs, including those of the army command and public security; granting the Council of Deputies the right to select the prime minister; keeping the authority to dissolve the Cabinet and the ministers in the hands of the president; reorganizing the army; and formulating a new law for defense.

The points of agreement also include: freezing the legislative decrees as a prelude to reconsidering them; adopting a decentralized administration in order to activate local action and bring about the economic development of provinces; and dissolving the militias throughout the Lebanese territories.

Junblatt Comments on Dialogue Conference Talks

NC191343 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Commenting on the Lausanne conference discussions, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt said in a statement to a U.S. television network that change has a long way to go, and that we cannot get anything unless we view development as a long struggle. We have not reached the text of an agreement in Lausanne so far.

Responding to a question on the minimum that he accepts, Junblatt said: The minimum must be agreed upon among the Lebanese parties who can implement the decisions. We here, however, are surrounded by retired old men. The required minimum that I accept for 2 months is a balanced redistribution [of power] in the interest of the Shi'ite sect of our people. This must be associated with certain amendments that will help adapt Lebanon to its environment and age.

Asked why he speaks on behalf of the Shi'ites and not his sect, Junblatt said: My logic is analytical and my party's course is outside the framework of the narrow sectarian logic in which they try to confine us. I want Lebanon to be secular and democratic. Asked about any new developments today, Junblatt said: We are beating around the bush. There is nothing new emerging. He added: There will be no settlement without peace on the ground. The shelling means political shelling of the conference.

Concluding, Junblatt said: I want to go and stay with my kinfolk and the sons of my region, to share with them the

suffering of their daily affairs. My position is near them and not in the corridors of the Beau Rivage Hotel in Lausanne.

Camille Sham'un Views Conference Prospects

PM200922 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 16 Mar 84 p 9

[Interview with former President Camille Sham'un by Aldo Sofia, 15 March, in Lausanne]

[Text] Lausanne, 15 Mar — *LA REPUBBLICA*: Camille Sham'un, Fadi Afram's Christian militias are proclaiming their independence, disputing Lebanon's reaffirmed Arabness, saying that they are not represented here in Lausanne, and maintaining that they do not accept "Syrian domination."

Sham'un: The "Lebanese Forces" began by condemning the results of President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to Damascus; in particular, the abrogation of the agreement with Israel. And that was a legitimate stance, because the "Lebanese Forces" also have the right to defend themselves against certain initiatives of the government. I still maintain, of course, that it is right for them to maintain independent stances at the political level. But they will not be able to disregard the results of the conference. In fact, they are represented here by myself and by Pierre al-Jumayyil. I am certain that the Phalangists will abide by what we will ask them to do, just as the Shi'ite and Druze militias will be forced to obey the orders given by Syria to their leaders.

LA REPUBBLICA: But does an agreement in Lausanne still seem possible to you?

Sham'un: Yes, because we of the Lebanese Front have come to Lausanne convinced that the foundations of civil peace should and can be laid. But, let it be quite clear — not at any price. Here or elsewhere we will always oppose the opposition's attempts to impose on us a radical revision of the constitution, which for over 30 years guaranteed peaceful coexistence among the Lebanese religious communities. In its essential points, which concern the intercommunity balance, the constitution must not be touched.

LA REPUBBLICA: You propose a federation. Are you not being utopian?

Sham'un: No. It is the best solution for everybody. Certainly, we are aware that our opponents will offer strong resistance. It will take time before they accept our idea. But we do not expect an agreement to be reached immediately. We will have to continue to talk, even after Lausanne. In any event, the front remains firm in its demand for a solution which will give Lebanon — an Arab and independent country — a federal republic, equipped with departments on a confessional basis.

LA REPUBBLICA: Nevertheless, the opposition, which is demanding a unitary model, rejects your proposal, partly because in Lebanon it seems impossible to form autonomous and confessionally homogeneous regions.

Sham'un: But we believe that the Druze and Shi'ites should study our proposal carefully. Moreover, Junblatt and Birri cannot hide behind constant rejections. This would mean that they have at heart not the country's interest but solely that of their militias and parties.

LA REPUBBLICA: "Federation or confederation," the Maronite Christian camp says. "An end to confessionalism," your opponents reply.

Sham'un: But we are also in agreement on the need to eliminate confessionalism in Lebanese political and administrative life. In fact, we must achieve a secular state. There is no disagreement on this essential point. But nor can Lebanese reality be erased, and the "Lebanese Front" is convinced that a federation could resolve the two problems — deconfessionalization and intercommunity balance — at the same time.

LA REPUBBLICA: The Druze and Shi'ites are also demanding Amin al-Jumayyil's resignation within the next 6 months.

Sham'un: My reply is a categorical no. Amin al-Jumayyil is a president democratically elected with over two-thirds of the parliamentary votes, and has stained himself with no crime. I have personally criticized the abrogation of the agreement with Israel, but the head of state is elected for 6 years, and — I repeat — respect for the constitution should be total. For this reason, too, I am opposed to the reduction of the presidential term to 3 or even 2 years. It would be a source of constant political instability. I also reject the plan for the head of state's election by direct universal suffrage, while an agreement has already been virtually reached on the future parliament's makeup: It will be half Christian and half Muslim.

LA REPUBBLICA: And the provisional government of national unity with exceptional powers demanded by the opposition?

Sham'un: Why a provisional government? If it is a good government, it should be able to continue. When we return to Beirut, we will have to choose a new prime minister, and he should not be given the impression that his term is provisional.

L'HUMANITE Interviews Amal Leader Birri

PM191225 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 15 Mar 84 p 10

[Unattributed interview with Amal Leader Nabih Birri in Lausanne — date not given]

[Text] *L'HUMANITE*: Are you optimistic about the outcome of this conference?

Birri: I am not very optimistic. Most of the people who are here have the same ideas as in 1943. You know that the national pact in 1943 did not create a nation but an anonymous society. There are people here who are trying to preserve their privileges. For them, Lebanon is a cheese of which they want a portion.

L'HUMANITE: What are you asking?

Birri: I am not asking anything for myself and I am not asking

for rights for the Shi'ites in particular, or for the Sunnis. I am asking that each Lebanese have the same rights. I am asking for an end to confessionalism. Since 1943, this system has been the root of three tragic crises for Lebanon — in 1958, in 1969 and since 1975. It is a ridiculous system which is contrary to Lebanon's interests. I am convinced and I want to tell you that the majority of the Lebanese people are both opposed to the federalism proposed by the Lebanese Front and to a return to the 1943 pact.

L'HUMANITE: What role is Syria playing in this conference?

Birri: The Syrians want reconciliation among the Lebanese and they are exerting great pressure to obtain it...

L'HUMANITE: Are they exerting pressure on you?

Birri: The Syrians are our friends. I accept any pressure from a friend, provided he does not ask me to abandon what is essential.

L'HUMANITE: On what conditions would you agree to meet privately with Amin al-Jumayyil, as Walid Junblatt did yesterday?

Birri: On two conditions: that he agrees to suppress confessionalism in Lebanon and that he shoulders his responsibilities regarding the damage to the southern suburb from which 36,000 families have been hounded by the shelling. They are my only two conditions. Yesterday, during the meeting, Amin al-Jumayyil came to talk to me. He asked me: "What do you want?" I gave him the videotape which we have on the southern suburb and I told him: "Examine that first, because you have committed a crime against Lebanon." He replied: "It is not my fault. You must go beyond this problem..." But I cannot go beyond it.

L'HUMANITE: Will you reiterate here your calls for support for the resistance to the occupation in southern Lebanon?

Birri: It is the people's resistance, comparable to that of the French against the Nazis in the war. It must be supported by all. I have asked for the blue helmets in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] to be reinforced with the French soldiers in Beirut, where they have no role to play, and with the Lebanese Army.

L'HUMANITE: You are due to visit France shortly. What do you expect from the French president?

Birri: If I meet with Francois Mitterrand, I will speak to him about this question. I will ask him to strengthen the French UNIFIL contingent in the south. At the political level, France, through the relations it has always had with the Maronites, can play a useful role by exerting pressure on them to help bring about a reconciliation.

Cease-Fire Security Committee Fails To Meet 19 Mar

NC191421 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee did not meet today to consolidate the cease-fire as scheduled.

Army representative, Staff Colonel Jean Nasir; Iksandar Saba, a military official in the Lebanese Forces; and Dr Jean Ghanim, envoy of the Lebanese Front, came to the temporary meeting place at the French contingent's headquarters in Beirut. Amal Movement representative Dr Ayyub Humayyid and National Salvation Front representative Wahbi Abu Fa'ur went to the French command headquarters. Colonel Nasir held held contacts and exerted efforts with his colleagues in the committee to persuade them to hold the meeting in either of the two meeting places. They refused for security reasons.

Contacts will be made to choose a new meeting place on which all the parties will agree.

Junblatt Expects Flareup, Criticizes Sunnites

NC201232 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] In a statement published by the *AS-SAFIR* paper, Junblatt today said the cease-fire was violated yesterday in West Beirut. According to Junblatt, there is still a chance for a renewed flareup because of the provocation made by some of the minor parties in the western [Beirut] area — parties who previously had no say.

Junblatt also attacked the Sunnite intransigent stands favoring a two-way system, saying: I think their main concern is to keep the prime minister's jurisdictions intact. Their approach, Junblatt said, is a shortsighted one; it is mainly geared to maintain the interests of the ruling class — the class which is more concerned about its own stature than about the homeland's interests.

Views Druze-Israeli Relations

NC200650 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Yesterday, Walid Junblatt told SANA and ADN that he favors using national resistance to expel Israel from Lebanon, but he does not favor the return of the Palestinians to the south.

Junblatt said his party is in the process of terminating the temporary relationship with Israel which was formed during the incidents in the mountain. Junblatt is apprehensive that Israel can compromise with the Lebanese Druze in the same way it did with the Christians. According to Junblatt, Israel wants to use the Lebanese Druze as a buffer protecting the Israeli forces in south Lebanon — in keeping with the legacy which made the southern Christians a buffer protecting Israel's border settlements.

Junblatt pointed out that he had told Israel's Druze that they

should put pressure on their government in favor of the Lebanese Druze, and not put pressure on the Lebanese Druze in favor of Israel's Government.

Clashes Continue Across Green Line in Beirut

NC192102 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The contact lines in Beirut are witnessing clashes that intensify and then abate. Various types of weapons are being used. The sounds of explosions can be clearly heard in Beirut and the suburbs as a result of shelling in quarters adjacent to the contact lines, particularly in the commercial areas up to Sodeco and Ra's an-Nab'.

As is well known, contacts are under way among the members of the Security Arrangements Committee to find a new place to hold its meetings.

Palestinian Gunmen Said To Arrive in Beirut Camps

NC191604 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has received information that Palestinian groups ranging from 150 to 200 men today arrived in the Sabra and Shatila areas. They are equipped with artillery and rockets. Preparations are being made to deploy these men on the contact lines.

Late Report: Junblatt Announces Collapse of Talks

Plans To Depart Lausanne

LD201412 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1402 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Lausanne 20 Mar (KUNA) — The leader of Lebanon's Socialist Progressive Party, Walid Jublatt, announced here today the collapse of the Lausanne conference and said he is going back to Lebanon this afternoon. The member of the Lebanese National Salvation Front, which opposes the government, said: "What a miserable day for Lebanon, and I expect that thousands of new victims will fall."

Mr Junblatt told the journalists while leaving the Hotel Beau Rivage, where the conference was held, that he will return to Lebanon today. He added: "I leave the conference because the midway solution agreement, which was presented last night, has failed."

Junblatt accused his former ally in the Lebanese National Salvation Front, Sulayman Franjiyah, of preventing the conference from reaching a compromise by rejecting last night the draft of the final communique which apparently was approved by everyone. The Druze leader did not mention the possibility of holding an extended session of the conference today, after the concentrated consultations which were directed by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam with leaders of the various conflicting wings.

Syria's Khaddam To Leave

NC201519 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Our correspondent in Lausanne says that the Lebanese National Dialogue conference has reached a deadlock following the acute differences that arose in the peripheral meetings held by the leaders of the Lebanese sects. Druze leader Walid Junblatt told our correspondent that the conference will not be able to reach a positive decision and that, for this reason, he has decided to leave Lausanne tonight. Our correspondent has also learned that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will leave Lausanne for Damascus after the conference failed to reach any result.

Our correspondent says that Pierre al-Jumayyil and Camille Sham'un announced a short while ago that they had prepared a new working paper involving proposals to bring closer the contradictory views. The Druze, Shi'ite and Sunnites, however, rejected the paper.

Vice Presidents Receive USSR Congratulatory Cables

JN191940 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Rif'at al-Asad, and Zuhayr Mashariqah have received congratulatory cables, including a cable from the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the occasion of their appointment as vice presidents by President Hafiz al-Asad. The following is the text of the cable: On the occasion of your appointment to ranking positions, we most sincerely congratulate you and wish you success in your work. The Soviet Union extended and continues to extend its firm support to friendly Syria in its confrontation with the U.S.-Israeli expansionist plans, and highly appreciates its efforts to secure joint Arab interests and realize a just settlement in the Middle East. We believe that the Syrian-Soviet friendship and fruitful mutual cooperation will be strengthened and developed in the interest of our two countries and peoples as well as the interest of peace and stability in the Middle East and the world.

The vice presidents also received congratulatory cables from the PRC vice president and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Judiciary Agreement Signed With Soviet Union

JN191958 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 19 Mar (SANA) — A judicial draft agreement was signed here today between Syria and the Soviet Union. Muhammad Zuhayr As-Sabuni, assistant minister of justice, signed the agreement for Syria, and Vladimir Kuzmin, Soviet deputy minister of justice, signed it for the Soviet side.

The agreement contains general provisions about the judicial protection of citizens on each other's territory and their freedom to refer cases to the courts and other judiciary authorities in accordance with the two countries' regulations to be followed by their citizens. The agreement will be endorsed and go into effect after it is finalized by the judiciary authorities in the two countries. The guest judiciary delegation left Damascus for home today.

Withdrawal of Soviet Advisers Reportedly Discussed

GF171602 Kuwait AL-HADAF in Arabic 16 Mar 84 p 1

[Report from Beirut]

[Text] *AL-HADAF* has learned that one of the points discussed during the Lebanese-Syrian summit was the withdrawal of the Soviet advisers from northern Al-Matn, particularly in the areas of Az-Za'rur and Duhur ash-Shuwayr. Sources close to Lebanese President Amin al-Jummayil have told *AL-HADAF* that security arrangements will be made in the Mount, particularly in Al-Matn, in stages to support President Al-Jumayyil's authority in confronting the Lebanese front militias.

Lawyer Michel Samahah, adviser to President Al-Jummayil, told *AL-HADAF* that the outcome of the Syrian-Lebanese summit will be announced to the public very soon. He said the views of Presidents al-Jumayyil and al-Asad were identical on instituting a cease-fire by all fronts and on providing the appropriate security atmosphere in West Beirut and the southern suburbs to enable the Lebanese Government to regain control of the areas between the Al-Awwali River and the Al-Madfun Bridge in the north.

On the other hand, reliable diplomatic sources have said that the resumption of the Lebanese National Reconciliation Conference means the opposition has dropped the demand that President al-Jumayyil resign and has opened a new page in relations between the opposition and the regime in Lebanon.

TISHRIN Says Lausanne's Success Only Way Out

JN170812 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial on the Lebanese national reconciliation, *TISHRIN* says: Syria, in cooperation with the Lebanese people and their national forces, has realized the abrogation of the agreement of submission. This is a historic victory against the United States, Israel, and the nation's enemies. It is also the most important step on the way to deciding the Lebanese issue. Syria cannot remain complacent toward realizing the second and necessary step; namely, making the Lausanne conference a success. This is because Lebanon is a trust in the hands of Syria and its leader. Nobody will be allowed to tamper with the Lebanese affairs any longer.

President Hafiz al-Asad has instructed Comrade Khaddam that the conference must succeed and that Syria will devote all its resources toward realizing this. This indicates the immense importance Syria attaches to the conference's success. Those meeting in Lausanne must realize the importance and seriousness of the issues that Syria will have to contend with. They should also realize the efforts that are required of Syria in the next stage.

The national and pan-Arab responsibilities must prompt all sides to act in a responsible manner and to realize the wishes and desires of the Lebanese people. The current phase is so serious that success is the only way out. Syria will guarantee any Lebanese nationalist solution and will ensure the safety of the Lebanese people regardless of their groups and communities. There is no need for worry, fear, or concern about the future because Lebanon, as we view it, will meet the ambitions and aspirations of all the Lebanese people.

Commentary Criticizes Arab Support For U.S. Policy

JN191900 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Nobody, even in the United States, questions the fact that U.S. policy in the Middle East has suffered a big defeat. This is represented by the U.S. military withdrawal from Lebanon, the Lebanese Government's step to abrogate the 17 May agreement

that the United States wanted to impose on Lebanon, and the fact that some Arabs had the courage to deal with the Camp David trend through the side door called Reagan's proposals, and refrained fromfollowing the Camp David path and the attempts by some to claim positions different from their declared position, especially before the Lebanese Government's announcement of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. This defeat is also represented by the fact that those who plotted to allow supporters of the U.S. imperialist plans to liquidate the Palestine question through Reagan's plans are now pretending that they oppose U.S policy in the region and are making statements on the aggressive U.S. conspiracies and plans against the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab nation.

The big defeat which U.S. policy in the Middle East has suffered is a historic landmark on the road of conflict between the Arab nation and its national liberation front on one hand and imperialism and Zionism on the other, and an obvious sign of the direction of developments in this part of the world. The region witnessed U.S. imperialist influence in the 70's, especially after As-Sadat's assumption of power in Egypt. Subsequently, As-Sadat greatly harmed the Arab national liberation movement, created bases for the United States militarily, politically, and economically, and arranged appropriate conditions for Israel to continue its expansionist, aggressive plans. Now, after the big U.S. defeat in Lebanon and the region, this area is witnessing the beginning of an Arab revolution and liberation and a U.S.-Israeli retreat, whose speed will be determined by the situation in the Arab arena and Arab ability to direct all the Arab energies and capabilities toward the battle with the United States and Israel.

The regional and international atmospheres are very favorable for a joint Arab action for the sake of a just and lasting peace based on the UN resolutions concerning the full and immediate Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian Arab people's national rights. The Arab economic, political, financial, oil, human, and military energies and potential are so great that they can influence the balance of powers in this and possibly other regions. If they were united and put in their proper place, these energies and potentials would help the Arabs make substantial progress toward achieving the phased pan-Arab objectives and saving the Arab nation from the humiliation that the United States and Israel try to impose.

All Arab wagers on the United States have failed for the thousandth time, and any new Arab wagering on the United States or on its pro-Israeli role is an aggressive political action against the Arab masses' interests, an action that is a premeditated treachery against the Arab nation's interests, masses, and pan-Arab cause. The United States has deliberately and willingly joined the enemies of the Arab nation, and any Arab presence beside the United States is considered a presence beside the Arab nation's enemies. Those Arabs will pay a high price. Any fruitful Arab meeting will only be realized on the basis of opposing the enemy and dealing with the friends as well as defining Arab politics toward other countries and foreign forces in accordance with the positions of these countries and forces toward the pan-Arab causes. No Arab meeting will be positive and useful unless it takes place on the basis of unifying Arab efforts and directing all Arab energies and capabilities toward the real conflict with Israel and the front of the real conflict with Israel and its protector, U.S. imperialism.

Actions speak for themselves and define the position and place of any Arab side. It is time for some Arab rulers to end their involvement in the U.S. and Israeli option and to cut their link withthe plans aimed at liquidating the Palestine question. Any delay will expose them to severe punishment from their countries' masses and the Arab nation's masses.

TISHRIN Views Recent Statements by Husayn

JN201025 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 20 Mar (SANA) — In an editorial today, *TISHRIN* says that the new things contained in King Husayn's contradictory statements last week regarding the U.S. stand toward the crisis in the region were not motivated by the lack of U.S. credibility toward its Arab friends in the region or the result of its impotence in putting pressure on Israel concerning the issue of settlements in the West Bank but are the result of the following two points: First, that the United States and its symbols in the region have failed in their attempts to bring Syria to its knees or to prevent it from scoring its Arab victory in Lebanon; and second, that the king is no longer in a hurry to obtain 'Arafat's signature concerning the question of the king's representation of the Palestinians because 'Arafat is now between the cogwheels of Camp David and the gun and has left the battlefront.

TISHRIN adds that there is no longer any difference between Hikmat al-Masri, the symbol of the Palestinian right wing and member of the Jordanian Senate; Bethelhem Mayor Ilyas Frayj; and 'Arafat and that any authorization by 'Arafat has lost its glamour in the Palestinian arena and its political importance in view of the real and effective Syrian barrier put before the king, and that Syria has not concealed this strong barrier from the eyes of the king in the wake of the collapse of the 17 May agreement. The paper says that the king knew about Israel's real stand before he criticized Washington's policies and when he apologized. The United States is not very much interested in whether King Husayn's negotiations with Israel will succeed or not.

TISHRIN concludes: What is important now is to drag the king to the negotiating table and place him before Israel's sympathy or anger. But the king realizes that joining such negotiations would be a risk and would transfer him from a state of apprehension and hesitation to a state of shouldering the responsibility for the perpetration of treason before Syria and the Arab nation.

U.S. Reaction Viewed

JN191021 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Palestine broadcast: From "On the Events" program]

[Text] Washington reports say that the Jordanian regime has clarified King Husayn's statements to *THE NEW YORK TIMES* asserting that Jordan has not deviated from the U.S.

strategy, and that the king's statements were a reaction through which he did not intend to harm his relations with the U.S. Administration.

U.S. Department of State sources said that the Reagan administration considered the Jordanian king's statement unnecessary at this particular time when opposition candidates for the presidency are blaming Reagan for the failure of U.S. policy in the Middle East. The sources said that King Husayn blamed the U.S. Administration for aborting his ambitions to begin Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. The U.S. Department of State asserted that although it is concerned over King Husayn's statements, it did not believe that they constitute Jordanian deviation from the U.S. policy, especially since King Husayn had agreed to form a Jordanian rapid deployment force, and since he is ready to hold direct negotiations with Israel.

In Amman, Western diplomatic circles asserted that King Husayn had apologized for his statements. However, Jordanian circles denied this, and asserted that the king meant to show dissatisfaction with the U.S. Administration, because it had not fulfilled its promise to support his course, and had made him openly concede many stands for nothing.

Damascus Cites Libyan Denial of Sudanese Bombing

JN181601 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli —In a statement issued last night, the Popular Committee of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison denied that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah was behind the air raid on Omdurman Broadcasting Station last Friday. The statement notes that the accusations leveled by Sudanese regime's President Ja'far Numayri against Libya are false and baseless.

In another development, the students' revolutionary force in London organized raging demonstrations in the streets of the British capital in protest against the British Government's accusations against Libya concerning the explosions and violence which spread in some British cities during the past week. The demonstrators condemned the campaign launched by the British media against Libya's stands which oppose imperialism, reactionism and colonialism. They called on the British authorities to release all Libyan detainees, and to stop the provocative and terrorist practices against the Libyans in Britain.

Damascus Reports U.S. Sending AWACS to Mideast

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Mar 84

(Text] Usamah al-Baz, chief of Egyptian President Husani Mubarak's office, returned to Cairo from Khartoum today after holding talks with Sudanese President Numayri on the deteriorating situation in Sudan. In Washington, the U.S. Defense Department today confirmed that the United States had sent two AWACS to the Egyptian regime. Pentagon spokesman John Woodhouse said that two AWACS and a number of other planes will be stationed in areas near the Sudanese border so that these planes can reconnoiter Sudanese airspace from Egyptian territories. The Pentagon spokesman also explained that the AWACS would participate in air operations by the Egyptian and Sudanese regimes to deter any possible aggression aqainst Numayri's regime, as he put it.

Reportage on TAMI Move for Early Elections

Motion To Dissolve Knesset

TA201037 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] A few minutes ago TAMI submitted to the Knesset secretariat the draft resolution to dissolve the Knesset and hold early elections. At the moment the Knesset Presidium is discussing the date when the Alignment's and TAMI's motions will be brought up for a vote in the Knesset.

A subcommittee of the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee today discussed recommendations by the last Knesset elections committee whereby the elections campaign would be restricted to only 1 month.

Plenary Debate 22 March

TA201300 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1254 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The Knesset Presidium has decided all the proposals to dissolve the Knesset and hold early elections will be transferred for debate by the plenary this very Thursday, 22 March. This refers to five proposals by the Alignment, TAMI, Shinuy, and HADASH factions. The same day, Thursday, the plenary will only deal with that issue.

At the end of a meeting of the coalition leadership, Chairman MK Avraham Shapira said: It is impossible to hold elections in the near future and it is also impossible to postpone the elections. So the date of the elections will be this coming June or July.

Coalition Calls for Elections

TA191932 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] A dramatic and spectacular development has occurred in the Israeli political system — if indeed it materializes: The TAMI leadership has decided to initiate the dissolution of the Knesset and hold early elections, and thus join the Alignment [in requesting a Knesset vote on the dissolution of the Knesset]. Our party affairs correspondent, Nisim Mish'al, who is in our Tel Aviv studio, has the details. Furthermore, we also invited public figures connected with this development. Let us first, however, transfer the broadcast to Tel Aviv and Nisim Mish'al:

The TAMI leadership decided last night to adopt MK Aharon Abu-Hatzera's proposal to initiate holding early Knesset elections. The faction will submit a bill tomorrow to dissolve the Knesset and hold elections as soon as possible. Barring last-minute changes, one could safely say that the Knesset elections will be held earlier, although the precise date for them will be determined by the Knesset, and it is too early to assess when precisely they will be held. MK Abu-Hatzera met today with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and MK Roni Milo in a bid to convince the Likud to support the proposal to hold early elections. Apparently, the Likud leaderhsip will debate the proposal tomorrow. We have in the studio MK Aharon Abu-Hatzera:

[Mish'al] Good evening, sir.

[Abu-Hatzera] Good evening.

[Mish'al] Is TAMI's decision to support early elections final?

[Abu-Hatzera] This decision was not made overnight nor on the spur of the moment. This is a decision we have been debating a number of weeks. TAMI teams have been working on the subject, primarily in connection with the socio-economic aspect of this, with a view to the future, for some time now. We have reached the conclusion that it is necessary to hold new elections as soon as possible for the good of the current Cabinet, for the good of the country, and for the good of the people. This is our position.

[Mish'al] Last Thursday, as you probably know as well as I, the TAMI secretariat met, and then it decided to discuss the issue of holding early elections in a few weeks, but this evening you announced you support early elections. What happened?

[Abu-Hatzera] As I said, we have been discussing the issue for a long time. We reached the conclusion that the present Cabinet is very limited, and it is very difficult for it to make the decisions that must be made in various spheres, particularly in the economic sphere. Last Thursday afternoon the consumer price index was published. On Thursday we had decided to discuss the issue at another time — we wanted to put the issue aside because the Alignment had entered the picture and had started talking about holding early elections; we wanted to forestall Alignment or other pressure. The index, however, had a great impact on our decisions. Our economic teams predict that the situation will be even rougher in the next few months: Inflation will increase; the population will face rather tough economic problems. How long will we able to drag things on? We have a sense of responsibility. We decided that we must initiate the matter.

The truth is that the main factor that tipped the balance was the index — it made the final impact on us, as well as events of the last few days and the Cabinet's functioning. Let me be frank with you, what has happened in the last few days among the highest ranks of the police force, with the inter-system struggles, with the police affairs minister [Dr Yosef Burg] still overseas and not returning home to deal with this — this is only one symptom and one story of this entire saga. The main issue for us is the situation.

[Mish'al] Since you have already mentioned the police: To what extent has your decision been influenced by the inquiry going on by high-ranking police officials into Aharon Uzan's affairs [minister suspected of financial irregularities]?

[Abu-Hatzera] There is no connection, because as I said we have been debating the issue for many weeks now. The fact that it was not leaked is only thanks to our teams and our party's system, which does not believe in leaking. I would like to complete my answer: I read in all the weekend papers allegations that this is why TAMI is paralyzed, actually, and will not initiate early elections. Well, I think the opposite is true.

[Mish'al] Has there been coordination on this with the Alignment?

[Abu-Hatzera] We have no connection with the Alignment on this. We want to submit our own motion. Our motion is intended to be an initiative with the Likud. We are with the Likud. I have dealt with the matter.

The Likud has a problem: It cannot initiate such a move when it has commitments to Agudat Yisra'el and the National Religious Party not to hold early elections. We do not have such a commitment to the other partners, nor have we demanded such a commitment from the Likud.

[Mish'al] Then why are you not taking the Likud into consideration? Look, what is happening is that you are calling for early elections when this move is inconvenient for the Likud, but while it is extremely convenient for the Alignment — or so it seems. Do you not think that this is in a way ingratitude toward the Likud?

[Abu-Hatzera] I have a suggestion for those who have started making new suits [allusion to new suits worn by the prime minister]: I suggest they take it easy and not sew them so quickly. I cannot see the Alignment overcoming its problems so soon, nor is this the ideal moment for them as far as coming to power. In my opinion, in terms of the incumbent coalition — the Likud and the Cabinet — if you mention timing, then the timing now is far more convenient than in 6 or 8 months. However, I cannot think about the welfare of that party, just as I did not take into account TAMI; and all indications are, of all things, that perhaps for TAMI it would not be worthwhile to have early elections. We did not take this consideration into account. Our consideration is: We want the Cabinet to enjoy a far larger majority so that it will be able to make the difficult decisions that are required. I believe the incumbent Cabinet — and I hope the Likud will support this initiative, join it, and we will bring about early elections together... I intend to make every effort to coordinate the date for the elections too with the Likud, with the prime minister, and perhaps even between the Likud and the Alignment, which will save a tremendous amount of money.

[Mish'al] Incidentally, did you inform the prime minister of this?

[Abu-Hatzera] Let me say the following: I certainly sat down with circles and figures among the Likud leadership.

[Mish'al] Yes, but I asked about the prime minister.

[Abu-Hatzera] I will see the prime minister on this matter tomorrow and I hope that this will be a government initiative. Perhaps it will not be joined by the entire Cabinet or all the coalition parties. I understand the other participants and each one has his own considerations, but we are doing everything for a joint initiative supported by the vast majority.

[Mish'al] I must end the interview, but let me clarify things: TAMI, under your leadership, supports early elections?

[Abu-Hatzera] TAMI is initiating its own motion to hold early elections.

[Mish'al] Thank you very much.

[Anchorman Hayim Yavin] MK Abu-Hatzera, this is Jerusalem. I would like to ask you a question: We did not hear you say explicitly that you will submit a motion to dissolve the Knesset and hold early elections before the Knesset recess, which begins in a litte over a week. Will you submit the motion prior to the recess?

[Abu-Hatzera] We intend to submit the motion tomorrow. We have a motion, which was presented several months ago, and our idea is to submit that motion tomorrow, and we will debate it either later on this week or early next week.

[Yavin] What does this intention — to submit it tomorrow — depend on? You plan to submit it tomorrow, but will you actually do so?

[Abu-Hatzera] I have already said our decision has been made. Tomorrow we will submit it.

[Yavin] So you will submit the motion tomorrow?

[Abu-Hatzera] That is correct.

[Yavin] Thank you very much.

Shamir Opposed to Call

TA191939 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1934 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Here is a reaction from the prime minister's office: Mr Yitzhaq Shamir is opposed to holding early elections. He believes that elections at this time would cause great damage to the effort to heal the economy and would preclude a recovery of the economy for at least the next 6 months. At the same time, if elections are held early, the Likud seek again to gain the confidence of the voters — these were the remarks of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

MK Berman To Support Call

TA191958 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1914 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Report by party affairs correspondent Nisim Mish'al — live in the studio]

[Text] We have a very interesting reaction: MK Yitzhaq Berman [Likud] says he will support the draft motion to dissolve the Knesset. He says: It is not a matter of changing my mind to vote in favor, and it does not matter who submits the draft motion, either TAMI or the Alignment. As for the date of the elections, he says that this is up to the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee.

Likud Divided on Elections

TA192011 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1910 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Interview with Likud Knesset faction Chairman MK Roni Milo by party affairs correspondent Nisim Mish'al and newsreel anchorman Hayim Yavin — live in the studio]

[Text] [Mish'al] You heard with us the announcement made by MK Aharon Abu-Hatzera. The first question I would like to ask you is: Will the Likud support TAMI's proposal to hold early elections?

[Milo] As you said at the beginning of this broadcast, I have met wih MK Abu-Hatzera and I heard him say that he personally and TAMI as a whole are interested in holding early elections. It was also decided that a meeting on this issue would be held tomorrow with the prime minister to clarify the matter. We will have to wait for this meeting and we will have to hold deliberations within the Likud to decide on our position on holding early elections.

[Mish'al] That is to say, the Likud may also support theproposal to hold early elections?

[Milo] On this I must admit that there are diverse opinions within the Likud about holding early elections. Some members think it would be desirable and worth our while to hold early elections because this is an election year in the United States and our political situation is very good. If the elections are held soon, some members believe that the situation in the Alignment would make the election campaign easier for us, as will the Levinson affair [Bank Hapoalim senior executive closely linked with Alignment who committed suicide following allegations of financial irregularities] which will yet have great reverberations. Only today I read in the newspaper that a special investigating team on this issue has been set up. I have no doubt that this will affect the public on the eve of elections....

[Mish'al — interrupting] You are almost announcing here that the Likud will support early election; that is what you imply.

[Milo] I must also admit that there is another opinion in the Likud, to the effect that an election campaign would disrupt the government's economic measures. The government is currently in the midst of an economic recovery; it is investing great efforts to restore the economy's health, and there is no doubt that elections would disrupt this move. Therefore, opinions within the Likud vary. As far as partisan considerations are concerned, some members thought — justifiably so, I think — that it is in our interest to hold early elections, but it would not be beneficial in the national economic context. We had our doubts and we decided that the good of the country has priority...

[Mish'al — interrupting] And you will make your decision tomorrow, I assume?

[Milo] We will hold deliberations and consultations about it. If the majority decides to hold elections and a move emerges to hold early elections, we will support them. We are also confident that we will win them....

[Mish'al — interrupting] I beg your pardon, MK Milo. I am not talking about success. Historically speaking, this is the first time in the history of the state that early elections have been actually initiated by the opposition; this has not been the case before. The question is whether TAMI's proposal, which will actually lead to the dissolution of the Knesset, does not mean an expression of no confidence in Shamir's government?

[Milo] First of all, TAMI is a member of the coalition. In this case, the initiative comes from the coalition and not from the opposition. If we talk about the past....

[Mish'al — interrupting] However, this was not initiated by the ruling party.

[Milo] There have been cases in the past. We initiated the previous elections — held in June 1981 — after the coalition majority crumbled. Usually, elections are not initiated by the ruling party unless the coalition majority requires this.

[Mish'al] Do you not regard TAMI's move as a failure of the Shamir government?

[Milo] I do not think we should imply a failure from this move. As I have said, we have a lot of things to go before the public with. I believe that we will be able to persuade the public to support us. Even King Husayn did us a service with his statements yesterday about a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria and about a withdrawal to the 1967 borders. Here there will be two approaches, that of the Likud and that of the Alignment, and the public will have to make up its mind about them, both about the political and the social problem. I am convinced that we will be able to persuade the public with our positions.

[Mish'al] Are we now in for a change in policy, such as in the economic or security spheres?

[Milo] As I said, we did not support early elections then mainly because of economic considerations but because we wanted to complete, or at least make progress, in the economic recovery process. I have no doubt that we will continue the process of economic recovery regardless of the elections. The good of the country and its economic future have a higher priority in our eyes than any other considerations.

[Mish'al] I thank you very much and we will wait for the Likud's decision tomorrow together with you. Maybe there will be a majority to hold early elections.

[Yavin] Nisim, allow me a brief question for MK Milo. MK Milo, TAMI has more than once tried to initiate early elections or to join such an initiative. Do you regard early elections as a fait accompli?

[Milo] I do not yet regard early elections as a fait accompli. As I said, there will be consultations tomorrow between TAMI representatives and the prime minister as well as among members of the coalition and Likud representatives. I am not sure that this is a final decision. We may convince TAMI members that as far as the good of the country goes — and economically speaking —

it would be a mistake to support early elections now. If we do not succeed in persuading them, we will have elections and I am also convinced that we will win them.

Peres: 'No Other Choice'

TA192034 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1915 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres by party affairs correspondent Nisim Mish'al — live in the Tel Aviv studio]

[Text][Mish'al] I have been told that you should be congratulated on the birth of a grandson today.

[Peres] Thank you, that is correct; it was truly a day of joy in the family.

[Mish'al] I want to ask you if we should also congratulate you on early elections?

[Peres] No, the one should not be confused with the other. The birth of my grandson is an event for true rejoicing, whereas holding early elections is an obligation that I would have preferred to have avoided; but there is no other choice.

[Mish'al] Can you predict whether there is a chance that this motion will actually pass and whether we will really have early elections?

[Peres] I believe that the election campaign has actually begun this evening; the real question on the agenda is how long this election campaign will last. The shorter it is the better things will be for the economy and the better the parties and the country as a whole will fare, because — again — the problem is not a technical problem any more. Half of the Knesset — perhaps more — have concluded that it is necessary to go to the polls, to request a new mandate for 4 years in view of the economic situation and the political situation.

[Mish'al] MK Roni Milo who was here before — I do not know whether you heard him — said that there are two main points: first, that it is necessary to take the economic situation into account, in light of the Cabinet's efforts to improve the situation and ease the crisis we are in; and second, that the Likud's situation is excellent in light of the balance of power, if elections are really held early. What is your reaction to this?

[Peres] The present government has been serving 6 months and during that time the inflation rate has risen from 150 percent to between 300 and 400 percent. Can this be called an improvement? This is inflation which gnaws at people; it causes great social polarization and great despair among many sections of the public. So what kind of improvement is there? And if indeed the Likud's situation has become better, great, then let it support elections; what does it think? I remember that last year MK Roni Milo and I made bets every other day, until the time for the test came, and at that moment he withdrew. We tried to establish a national unity government, which was not established — not due to any fault of ours. We tried to set up an alternative government, and it did not work. I think the country has no other alternative but to try something different from what it now has.

[Mish'al] Were positions precoordinated between the Alignment and TAMI?

[Peres] No. I would like to say something on the order of things and how decisions were made. We were supposed to decide by last Thursday, because we had to submit the motion 1 week prior to the last day for the submission of bills to the Knesset — which is this coming Thursday. That is why the faction leadership met on Wednesday, and when we did that, that immediately followed TAMI's decision not to support holding early elections. So we were faced with a serious problem: We believed we had 58 supporters: but had nothing to base our hopes on with regard to others.

[Mish'al] So were you surprised by TAMI's announcement this evening?

[Peres] I was, because Mr Abu-Hatzera did not tell me of this ahead of time. I just heard that he told the Likud members, but I in fact heard this from you, when I was asked to come to the studios for a reaction.

[Mish'al] In the time we still have, allow me to move on to what can be expected to take place in the Labor Party. You recalled all Alignment MK's for the vote. One of your friends, although not a Knesset Member, Yitzhaq Navon, is in Argentina. Will you also ask him to come back and support the motion?

[Peres] I have actually asked Yitzhaq Navon to join the party leadership before. He is the one who requested an additional cooling-off period. The day after the Knesset decides whether to hold early elections I will appeal to him and ask him, offer him, to certainly come and join the election campaign.

[Mish'al] Do you anticipate a competition in the Labor Party?

[Peres] I am not a good prophet. Everyone has the right to elect or be elected.

[Mish'al] But on the other hand you are very familiar with politics.

[Peres] I do not know. I hope we will all reach an agreement. The matter is extremely grave and all should do everything necessary to maintain unity. I think our situation is pretty good and we will be united. In any case, if anyone wishes to compete, a competition will be held.

The question is very difficult. Much depends on the Likud and whether it decides to filibuster in the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee. I am also calling on the prime minister:

The business is very serious and he must realize that more than half the Knesset — or at least half of it — and this is the elected body representing the people, wants early elections. I think in the current economic predicament, it is in the Likud's interest, too, not to support an election campaign of 9 or 10 months; this would be as hazardous to the economy as Aridor [former finance minister]....

[Mish'al] So you favor speedy elections?

[Peres] Speedy elections — in 2 months — fair elections, without slander. It is necessary to talk about tomorrow, not about yesterday; about the two alternatives that exist. The central problems that must be decided in these elections are what to do in the economic and social spheres, on the one hand; and what to do about Lebanon on the other hand.

Moda'i, Ne'eman Oppose Move

TA192125 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said this evening that he believes in the current economic situation, the issue of early elections is serious and it could lead to a catastrophe that should be prevented by all available means. Minister Moda'i said he will do everything possible to persuade his colleagues, and other parties too, not to create such a grave situation. He added that it is much more preferable to have a national unity government, even for a limited period of time, until the economic situation stabilizes.

Minister Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya also objects to early elections, and he told our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz that Israel needs them now like a hole in the head, both politically and economically.

Peres Expects Dissolution Vote Thursday

TA192118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres believes that the vote on the motion to dissolve the Knesset and hold early elections will take place this Thursday. He said this to our correspondent Asher Schwartz.

Our Knesset correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli reports that in fact the matter has nothing to do with whether or not the TAMI faction asks the Knesset Presidium tomorrow to submit its motion on early elections for a vote because there are already four motions on early elections before it: An earlier TAMI motion, and motions by the Alignment, Shinuy, and HADASH.

Burg, Ministry Official on Election Preparations

TA192119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Interior Ministry Dr Yosef Burg has said that technically it is possible to hold elections in 3 or 4 months, but in his opinion they should be held after July and August, when so many Israelis are on vacation and are travelling.

Dr Shaham, supervisor of elections and coordinator of administered areas, says that the list of eligible voters is ready and it is possible to hold elections in 45 days.

Weizman To Form New 'Center List' for Elections

TA200739 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] 'Ezer Weizman will announce that he is forming a new center list that will participate in the Knesset elections, once it has been decided to hold early elections, and a date has been set for them. He told close associates that he has definitely decided not to run on the Likud list. Our correspondent states that the funds for organizing the new list have already been mobilized.

Short Cabinet Session Ends; Elections Not Discussed

TA200755 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0746 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The Cabinet session ended in Jerusalem a few minutes ago. It was extremely brief, lasting less than 40 minutes. TAMI Minister Uzan is the only member to have emerged from the Cabinet session so far. He told our correspondent Sha'ul Stav that the subject of early elections did not even arise at the Cabinet session. According to him, the Cabinet dealt only with current matters. Our correspondent notes, however, that the prime minister will hold meetings with TAMI leader Aharon Abu-Hatzera and with coalition leaders as well as with Likud ministers within the next few hours.

Hammer: NRP Supports Decision

TA200840 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0828 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The Likud ministers are at present meeting in the prime minister's office to discuss the holding of early elections. The subject of the discussion is the date on which the Likud would prefer to hold the elections.

Earlier, the Cabinet met in a brief session, lasting only 40 minutes. At its conclusion Minister Zvulun Hammer said in fact the decision to hold early elections had already been made, and the question now is when they will take place, he said.

The Minister of Education went on to add that the National Religious Party [NRP] supports the holding of elections in October or November, but if the Likud agrees to holding elections in May or June, the NRP will put no obstacle in its path.

Alignment Wants Early Elections on 22 May

TA200912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] A short while ago our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli reported that the Alignment faction's executive has decided that the elections should be held on 22 May, namely, in 2 months. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said it is inconceivable that the elections campaign should last 8 to 9 months with the government devoting resources to elections at the expense of Israel's economic future.

In reaction to the reservations voiced by the Bank of Israel and

the Finance Ministry about early elections, Peres told our correspondent Asher Schwartz that those who today demonstrate so-called national responsibility did not act in that way for years, when the economy kept deteriorating.

Deliberations on Elections Reported

TA201010 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The deliberations regarding early Knesset elections continue to be conducted on two planes: the Knesset Presidium which is now convening to finalize the date for the debate on the motions of dissolving the Knesset; and the prime minister's talks. Mr Shamir ended his talk with the Likud ministers a short while ago and in the afternoon he will meet with the coalition members. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports on the meeting which took place this morning:

[Schiffer — live] The main decision on early elections has already been made, we are told by Minister Avraham Sharir, upon his departure from the prime minister's office. The date of the elections is the only thing left to decide on.

[Begin Sharir recording] For a long while now, since the last elections, I have been in favor of early elections. The timing for this now depends on a number of elements which we will have to examine, including the security and economic issues. I think that at this stage it is still early for any element to decide on the timing. I think it would be desirable for the entire coalition to hold consultations on this issue and decide on a joint stance. [end recording]

Alignment Moves To Change Election Procedures

TA201055 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Alignment representatives will push for a resolution calling for the Knesset recess to commence on 8 April, one week later than scheduled. Our Knesset correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli reports that prior to the meeting of the Knesset Presidium, Alignment faction leader Shahal talked to Knesset Speaker Savidor in a last minute effort to persuade him to agree to the change. The authority rests wholly with the Knesset speaker. His deputies in the Likud are firmly opposed to the additional week. Last week Menahem Savidor agreed only to consider the matter once more, but our reporter says he has not changed his stand that the recess should begin on 1 April.

Our correspondent stresses that without this additional week, the opposition has no chance of getting a law passed that will lead to speedy elections. During the recess there is no possibility of discussing privately proposed bills such as the proposals the opposition will be submitting this week. Thus the debate on these motions — if they pass the preliminary reading — will presumably not take place until 14 May.

Regarding the procedural aspect of the debate on the proposed bill in the Knesset, our correspondent notes that the coalition has a majority in the Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, which is supposed to discuss this issue. Therefore, if the Alignment and TAMI wish to raise the issue before another committee, such as the Internal Affairs Committee, it will be transferred to the House Committee for its decision. However, here, too, the coalition has a majority without TAMI.

Alignment faction head Moshe Shahal said that it was inconceivable that any kind of procedural barrier could block the opinion held by a majority in the Knesset plenum. Once the majority in the plenum says that the Knesset should be dissolved, none of its committees can frustrate or prevent the desire of the plenum. MK Shahal was speaking to our Knesset correspondent.

Speaker To Announce Decision on Recess 26 March

TA201228 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor will announce next Monday whether he is extending the Knesset debates by 1 week, postponing the Knesset recess. This was stated by Mr Savidor a short time ago, after the meeting of the Knesset presidium ended. He also gave instructions for all the motions dealing with the dissolving of the house to be tabled for the debate on Thursday. Our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli reports that reference is to four motions proposed by the opposition, and one motion submitted some time ago by Tehiya MK Ge'ula Kohen.

At the Knesset presidium meeting the Alignment representatives pushed for a resolution postponing the recess, so that there would be enough time to pass a law on early elections. No private proposals of this sort can be debated during the recess.

One Knesset Member To Return From Argentina

TA201116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The Knesset delegation visiting Argentina has decided that only MK Rabbi Menahem Hakohen [Alignment] will return to Israel to participate in the voting on early elections, if this occurs the day after tomorrow, 22 March. The delegation chairman, MK 'Uzi Bar'am, told our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh that the delegation members were beginning the political meetings in Argentina today and within a few days, they are scheduled to meet with President Raul Alfonsin. Our Knesset correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli comments that even after this decision, the opposition is still expected to have a majority in the voting.

Explanation Offered for TAMI's Early Election Call

TA201044 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Senior sources in the Ministry of Finance confirm that millionaire Nisim Ga'on did in fact request a guarantee for loans he wished to obtain from overseas banks in order to extricate himself from financial difficulties. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the Minister of Finance made it clear to the members of TAMI that he has no intention of helping Ga'on.

Estimates in the Ministry of Finance are that this is the principal reason for TAMI's initiative in calling for early elections.

Shamir Meets UN Under Secretary Urquhart

TA191245 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart has reported to Prime Minister Shamir on his talks in Jordan and Syria. In Urquhart's opinion, King Husayn made the statement to the effect that Jordan would not join the peace process even if Israel were to freeze settlements, because he fears an escalation in the Arab world which would jeopardize his own status. Urquhart further said that the UN secretary general would like to visit this part of the world, and the prime minister welcomed this.

Comments on Lausanne Talks

TA191246 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister believes that no real results will be achieved in Lausanne that could lead to a solution of the crisis in Lebanon. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Yitzhaq Shamir said as much to UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart today, when the latter visited Jerusalem.

Shamir on Husayn Statements

TA191250 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1234 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says that Israel was taken by surprise at King Husayn's declaration that he would not conduct negotiations even if there is a settlement freeze. At a meeting with UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart, Mr Shamir noted that this declaration would not help Husayn in his relations with the United States or in his relations with Israel.

Mr Shamir went on to add that Israel and Jordan share many common problems beyond the territorial issue, and they do have things to talk about. Therefore, he stressed, there was no need for extremist public statements such as those made by Husayn. All the problems between us, Mr Shamir said, can be solved by negotiations and without prior conditions. This was reported by our correspondent Moshe Hakohen.

Further on Urquhart Meeting

TA191621 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Report by Moshe Hakohen — recorded]

[Text] Brian Urquhart is in Israel as part of a tour of Middle Eastern capitals. The main purpose of his talks in Jerusalem is to learn Israel's positions on a possible role for a UN force in southern Lebanon and the security arrangements Israel is seeking there.

This evening, the prime minister explained to the visiting UN under secretary that Israel thinks that UNIFIL or an alternative UN force should — in the framework of those security arrangements — be a buffer between the area in southern Lebanon that would be under Israel control and the forces that would be stationed north and east of that area. Israel believes that UNIFIL failed in its previous role with which it was entrusted after the Litani operation, namely, to prevent the terrorists from organizing in southern Lebanon and launching operations from there. This is why Israel is not ready to entrust a similar role to a UN force in the framework of the new arrangements.

In this context, the prime minister added that Israel does not intend to stay forever — as he phrased it — in southern Lebanon. However, it will not withdraw from there before stablity has been guaranteed on Israel's northern border and the appropriate security arrangements are made to this end. It should be pointed out that possible Israeli deployment lines in southern Lebanon or a timetable for such a redeployment were not mentioned in the meeting.

During the talk, Urquhart briefed the prime minister on his talks in Damascus and Amman. He did not bring any new message from the Syrian capital. From Amman, however, he gathered the impression from talks with his interlocutors there that the radicalization in the Arab world and Israel's continued settlement policy are the reasons that drove King Husayn to declare that he would not enter negotiations with Israel.

In reaction to this, the prime minister said he did not understand why the king saw fit to make his recent declarations, which he described as extremist. Jordan and Israel share many common problems that are not related to the territorial question, Shamir said. In any event, all the problems could be solved at the negotiating table in direct negotiations between the two countries without any preconditions.

Brian Urquhart also told the prime minister that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar wants to visit Israel. The prime minister replied that Israel would be glad to receive him but a date for the visit was not set.

Before concluding his visit to Israel today, Urquhart is scheduled to confer with the defense minister and the chief of staff. It seems that this will not be his last visit to the area and that he will return here in the near future.

Arens Sees No UNIFIL Role in South Lebanon

TA191715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens believes that a UN force can help bring about quiet in Lebanon if it is stationed north of the Al-Awwali River, and if it serves as a buffer between the IDF and the Syrian Army in the eastern sector. In a meeting with UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart, Minister Arens emphasized that Israel does not forsee a role for UNIFIL in southern Lebanon. The security of the northern settlements, he believes, should be based on an IDF presence in a security strip

in the south, as well as on local forces. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Urquhart will return to Damascus to resume talks with Vice President Khaddam and to look into the possibility of incorporating a UN force in a Lebanese settlement.

IDF Soldier Killed in Southern Lebanon 19 March

TA200520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] An IDF soldier, Private (Ricardo Goldman), 28, of Nes Ziyyona, was killed in southern Lebanon last night. A second soldier was wounded in the incident. The IDF spokesman announced that an explosive charge blew up south of the Az-Zahrani. The charge exploded as an IDF convoy was passing. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that the device, which weighed 10-kg, was detonated electronically by a terrorist band apparently waiting by the roadside. Large numbers of IDF forces are presently searching the area, and a partial curfew continues on Shi'ite villages in the As-Sarafand area. Shi'ite extremist gangs have been caught in this region recently, having been involved in numerous attacks on IDF troops.

Contacts in Lausanne With Syria Reportedly Under Way

TA191523 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Mar 84 p 4

[Report by Sari Robert and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] Contacts between Syria and Israel, with U.S. mediation, have been under way at the Lausanne conference in a bid to find an settlement that will include security arrangements for southern Lebanon along the lines of those in effect on the Golan Heights, *MA'ARIV* learned from a reliable source last night.

Arab reporters have said that various proposals for security arrangements in southern Lebanon were discussed yesterday in the hallways of the convention hall, with the participation of the Syrian delegation, and were brought to the attention of a U.S. diplomat who was invited to Lausanne.

In reaction to Amin al-Jumayyil's accusations that Israel is trying to sabotage the reconciliation talks by using its influence on the Christian forces in Lebanon, representatives of the "Lebanese Forces" (the Phalangists) told *MA'ARIV* last night that they are still expecting Israel to intervene somehow in Lebanon, and at the same time they are anticipating changes in the Syrian regime.

Israeli Officials Reported Present in Lausanne

TA191558 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Mar 84 pp 2, 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] On Monday evening there was an Israeli presence as well in Lausanne. It is true that Israel's flag was not among those of the countries participating in the conference at the luxurious Beau Rivage Hotel. But there were Israelis there.

Yitzhaq Li'or, a spectacled man in his late forties, was there but he had no official status at the conference. Li'or left secretly for Lausanne and his mission was meant to remain a secret but the media there discovered him.

Who is Yitzhaq Li'or? He was Israel's consul general in the southern United States during the seventies. He also was assigned to Washington and given responsibility for ties with Congress. Li'or studied at the National Defense College and is married with two children. Li'or was among those who set up the Israeli representation in Beirut and he established extensive ties with Christian and Muslim personages in Beirut. Many times he left for meetings in besieged Beirut, and for this he was awarded a rare commendation from the director general of the Foreign Ministry.

The man behind Li'or is Dr David Kimche, the Foreign Ministry director general. Kimche is well acquainted with the Lebanese scene and with the major actors, and it was he who decided that the abrogation of the 17 May agreement does not mean the end of the extensive system of ties that have been established over the years between Israel and Lebanon.

The pilgrimage of Lebanese personages who criticize Al-Jumayyil's actions to the Israeli representation in Beirut and to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem strengthen Kimche in his belief that the Lebanese affair is far from being over.

As soon as Li'or reached Lausanne, he found out that he is playing with tough opponents and is far from his home court. As expected, the Foreign Ministry is remaining silent on everything connected with Li'or's contacts with Lebanese personages participating in the conference. However, the statements of these personages left no doubt as to the Israeli influence on them.

Pierre al-Jumayyil, Camille Sham'un, and his son Dani consider the Israeli representative a personal friend with whom they coordinate the continuation of the political battle outside the Beau Rivage. The Israeli influence was most obvious when the Christian leaders opposed the Lebanese president.

The Lausanne conference heightened the awareness of Israeli policymakers in Jerusalem of the need to develop relations with the Christian leadership in Lebanon — no matter how the conference ends.

Li'or was not the only Israeli representative in Lausanne. The Lebanese paper *AN-NAHAR* last week published a report that Uri Lubrani, Israel's coordinator of activities in Lebanon, was also in Lausanne.

When asked by *HA'ARETZ*, Lubrani affirmed that Israel is making a behind-the-scenes effort to bring about a Christian-Druze dialogue, which could bring about some sort of understanding between them and which could at the same time serve Israel's security needs.

The Israeli efforts brought about a meeting — in "Lebanese terms" a summit — between the Christian leader Camille

Sham'un and the Druze leader Walid Junblatt. They discussed, among other things, the return of Christian refugees to the Ash-Shuf villages.

The Israeli representatives took advantage of Junblatt's humiliation following the warm reception given by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. Junblatt, who has previously broken agreements with Israel, viewed himself free, following the hugs exchanged between Al-Asad and Al-Jumayyil, to talk again with Lubrani and Li'or. It seems that this meeting was meant to hint to Israel that it would be desirable to include him in any planned security settlement.

The results of the Lausanne conference are still not clear. Foreign Ministry officials assess that Israeli activity was able to foil Syria's plan to take over Lebanon completely.

Divisions within the Christian camp and a Christian-Druze rift are, according to the officials — clear expressions of a new process in Lebanon. Sources in Jerusalem said yesterday: "There is progress in talks with local personages in southern Lebanon." The person who made this comment did not mention, or say even one word about Lausanne.

No Withdrawal, Redeployment Decisions Now

TA191740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] For the moment, Israel will not make any decisions to withdraw from Lebanon or redeploy along a new line, our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports. He adds that over the past few weeks a deterioration could be discerned in everything pertaining to the establishment of relations with the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon. The number of attacks by Shi'ites against the IDF has increased as well. Nonetheless, Israel believes that the militia groups in southern Lebanon, which are consolidating now, will succeed in preventing the terrorists from returning to that area.

Ambassador Sason Meets With 'Ali in Cairo

TA181025 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by Yosef Harif]

[Text] Israel's Ambassador in Cairo, Moshe Sason, met last week for a private talk with Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Kamal Hasan 'Ali, in order to improve the relations between the two countries. Except for the softer tone in the Egyptian minister of foreign affairs' remarks — as compared with the statements of other government officials in Cairo — there is no positive move on the part of Egypt.

The meeting was held at the initiative of Sason, and not at the directive of Jerusalem, following recent tough statements by Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, and criticism levelled at Israel in President Husni Mubarak's letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir about 2 weeks ago.

President Mubarak's letter came in reply to Shamir's letter, in which the latter called for joint action for advancing the peace between the two countries. In his letter of reply, Mubarak indeed repeated his statement about Egypt's commitment to the peace treaty. However, not only did Mubarak ignore Shamir's suggestion — not conveying any practical idea on how to strengthen the links — but the Egyptian president levelled criticism at Israel.

Mubarak's reply was defined by political sources in Jerusalem as "a futile and negative settling of accounts." Mubarak's letter did not even hint at the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, which was suggested by Shamir as an act that would contribute to improving relations between the two countries.

It looks as though Ambassador Sason tried to use the private talk with the Egyptian minister for foreign affairs as a way to assess Egypt's real intentions, as opposed to public statements by its officials.

Egypt's Ghali, Sason on Relations, Peace

TA161959 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Interviews with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sason by Edhu Ya'ari; Ghali, Ya'ari interview in English; Sason in Hebrew — in Cairo, date not given — videotaped]

[Excerpts] [Ghali] After all, what was the purpose of all the agreements which have been concluded between Egypt and Israel? It was a comprehensive peace. So, we succeed in the bilateral relations between Egypt and Israel. We failed in the comprehensive peace. So if you just want to be logical with ourself, we must return to the peace process, which is trying to find the beginning of a solution for the comprehensive peace. So, I believe that the real breakthrough to resume the relation, or to have better relations between Egypt and Israel, will be through new negotiations concerning the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

[Ya'ari] Is it possible to have Jordanian-Palestinian participation without Syrian consent now?

[Ghali] I believe that this could be done, that you can have a Jordanian-Palestinian participation without, let us say, even the tacit agreement of Syria.

[Ya'ari] And what is the priority? A solution for Lebanon and withdrawal from Lebanon first, or, we go first for...

[Ghali — interrupting] Our position during the last 2 years was that let us begin with Lebanon, and if we will find a solution for Lebanon, obtain the withdrawal of the Israelis from Lebanon. This will encourage the moderates among the different Arab elements of the whole problem.

But it proved that Lebanon's problems have not been solved and this was at the expense of the Palestinian problem, so we believe that priority must be given to the Palestinian problem, knowing the [word indistinct] existing between the Palestinian and the Lebanese problem. In other words, we have not paid enough

attention during the last 2 years to the Palestinian problems, and this, again, was at the expense of the peace process.

[Ya'ari] Are there any new contacts, fresh contacts, between the Egyptian Government and the Israeli Government concerning this issue of how to bring Jordanians and Palestinians to the table?

[Ghali] Here there is a prerequisite. It will be useless to have contacts with the Israeli before we can obtain an agreement of both the Jordanian and the Palestinian.

We are in contact with both the Jordanian and the Palestinian.

We are encouraging them to reach an agreement between them so that we can move at the second step to a new negotiation with the Israeli and the Palestinian and the Jordanian.

[Ya'ari] And you will stake your reputation as a diplomat by saying that there is a chance, a real chance, that 'Arafat and King Husayn can reach some sort of an effective accommodation between them, which will help a peace process?

[Ghali] Yes, we believe, we believe that 'Arafat will give a mandate to the Jordanian, could agree with the Jordanian about certain basic principles, and then this will create a new momentum in favor of peace.

[Ya'ari] Do you have any assurances from 'Arafat or the king to this effect?

[Ghali] I have no assurances. They were on the point to reach — the only assurance is that they were on the point to reach an agreement last April and they failed. The fact that they were on the point to reach an agreement is a proof that they may reach a new agreement.

[Ya'ari] So, finally, there is a chance, in your opinion, that, let's say, within a year, we may have a new round of negotiations?

[Ghali] Why are you so pessimist in saying within a year? I am hoping that this may happen in the next weeks.

[Sason] We disagree with Egypt over this approach. We think that this gives one or more elements, whose intentions are different from those of Israel and Egypt, the right of veto in furthering the peace process, despite the difficulties in the area. If Egypt waits for a mandate, or a green light — actually it is now waiting for not a mandate, but the Palestinians and King Husayn to join — this will only delay the continuation of the peace process.

Egypt thought — and there were hesitations at a high level on this issue — that if there was a holdup or misunderstanding, or something even graver, between us and one of the neighboring Arab countries, Egypt, since it is the only country that has relations with Israel, would be able to play a certain role. Someone once defined this as a bridge. And here is what happened: Instead of playing that role, Egypt saw fit to sever itself, in fact, from a serious dialogue with us. As ambassador, or personally, I should give myself a compliment since, in fact, the only channel that existed for talking was through me.

ALGERIA

Foreign Minister To Visit Syria, Saudi Arabia

LD191510 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers, 19 Mar (APS) — Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN, today received Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the FLN Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, before his departure for Syria and Saudi Arabia as a special envoy carrying messages from the president to these countries' leaders.

LIBYA

Air Force 'Capable of Destroying' U.S. AWACS

LD192044 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1955 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Mar (JANA) — A spokesman of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces has stated the following:

1. It appears that the succession of events connected to the bombing operation, of which the Omdurman radio station was a target, seems to have been fabricated, and that it took place with the knowledge and the encouragement of the United States for the purpose of finding an excuse to force Egypt and Sudan to allow U.S. strategic spying. This is considered to be flagrant aggression against the Arab nation, violation of its airspace, and a threat to its independence. The Arab nation is called upon to resist this flagrant aggression, which is trying to return through the window after being kicked out the door.

These agents want to make amends to their master, Reagan, for his great and shameful loss in Lebanon, at the expense of the honor and independence of Egypt and Sudan. Seeking the assistance of the United States and its aircraft on every occasion fully exposes the incompetence of the Egyptian and Sudanese regimes to defend themselves. It also constitutes an insolent provocation against the dignity of the Egyptian and Sudanese officers and men, the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples, and consequently the entire Arab nation.

2. It is not ruled out that the return of U.S. AWACS spy planes to the area seeks, among other things, aggression against Libya. If it is proved that these planes have returned to facilitate, pave the way, cover or protect in any form, aggression on Libya, we warn that the Libyan Arab Air Force is capable of reaching them and destroying them. Reagan should do his figuring again, figuring based on tampering with world stability and peace and on his agents flinging themselves to his bosom. We also remind the agents in Egypt and Sudan of the utter failure of the United States in protecting Haile Selassie Idris as-Sunussi; the shah; Lon Nol; and As-Sadat — people who sought U.S. protection. This protection led to a shortening of their lives. He who gives a warning is excused.

Numayri Account of Bombing Incident Ridiculed

LD201011 Tripoli JANA in English 0912 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 16, March 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY —

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR newspaper which is published by the revolutionary committees said yesterday:

The fabrication of imaginary stories which lead the human being to believe it needs a clever and broad minded person but when he is sick and ignorant the fabrication becomes sickening and ridiculous like the one who fabricated it. [sentence as received] This is exactly what can be said about the ridiculous stories fabricated by hireling Numayri's limited and sickening imagination that the plane which had destroyed the Omdurman radio station was a Libyan plane and it is a waste of time to discuss details to refute hireling Numayri's allegations. The story [words indistinct] unpalatable to mind and proper logic. It is worth noting that hireling Numayri is insulting the Sudanese intelligence and ridicules them to the extent that he believed that they are parrots who are repeating that says without thinking and questioning. [sentence as received] He is also trying to insult the intelligence of the world at large when he said that Libyan planes, TU-22, violated the Sudanese territorial airspace and destroyed Omdurman radio station and returned as if it were in a tourist flight. Just imagine, a Libyan plane penetrates Sudanese air defenses and flies over 800 miles, the distance between Libyan Arab border and the Sudanese capital despite of the intense availability of the American and Egyptian monitoring equipment, in the western region of Sudan to protect Numayri treacherous regime, and bombs the main radio station without return [as received] any resistance. Although the agent Numayri did not identify the airplane make nor the destination it took, the Sudanese regime should have had some respect to other people's intelligence and the story would have been more acceptable for the authorities to determine the airplane make and the area it returned a without any resistance is very amusing and a next accepted and would be acceptable only to a member. [sentence as received]

The airplane which bombarded the Omdurman radio station was Sudanese and the piloted by a Sudanese too. [sentence as received] The aim of this operation was to topple the treacherous regime. This action, as it has been reaffirmed by [word indistinct] sources, this was an integral part of a comprehensive movement within the armed forces to put an end to the imposition of this totalitarian agent and the Sudanese masses. [sentence as received] This is the genuine story which the traitor wanted to distort.

It is so obvious that the raid operation is part of an uprising by the Sudanese Army in connection with Sudanese masses discontent of Numayri's rule and clique. Proofs are too many in an armed revolution whose objective is to liberate the whole of Sudan starting from the south succeeded in decisively storming several of positions held by hireling regime. [sentence as received]

Moreover, there are many signs of popular revolution in the north such as demonstrations, strikes and rebellion. However, revolutions and social uprisings are not uncommon in Sudan. Every now and then a revolution or a social uprising would overthrow

hireling Numayri and force him to seek shelter and protection from his basters [word as received] in the Black House and 'Abdin Palace [in Cairo]. In all cases they saved him by suppressing the uprising and reinstating him. In simple words, everybody knows about Sudanese people's revolution and uprising against rule of hireling Numayri, a revolutionary people like this one would not need a jet from abroad to attack a radio station. It should not be forgotten that this people in 1971 succeeded in actually arresting Numayri for 3 days after assuming power. Today, they are capable of attacking Omdurman radio station together with any other governmental institution used by Numayri to dominate people. The people who attacked Omdurman radio station in 1975 during the uprising of Hassan are today capable of attacking it again without external assistance. The people who attacked hireling Numayri on 2nd June 1976 when it [as received] was landing at Khartoum airport are today capable of attacking Omdurman governmental radio station or even the palace where he lives, building of state security organization or the so-called Sudanese Socialist Union. Despite all these convincing facts Numayri is still using his narrow mind and ill imagination in mocking the masses by publicising allegations that it was a Libyan jet which attacked Omdurman radio station.

Numayri aims by these discredited claims at sowing the seeds of dissension between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Sudan by depicting the operation as Libyan aggression and intervention, also as a cover up for the American air (?bridge) and the pouring of Egyptian troops into Sudan to protect his regime and to quell the armed popular revolution in the south. And in order to win the feelings of Sudanese masses in their fight against the popular movement and suppressing unrest such as the strike of doctors and teachers Numayri also aimed at preparing the ground for aggression against the Jamahiriyah in cooperation and coordination with the Reagan terrorist administration. This is confirmed by Numayri himself who announced two weeks ago that he was going to wage a war against the Jamahiriyah.

The bombing of Omdurman radio station is a Sudanese operation irresponsible of Numayri attempt to hid this obvious fact. This operation is also a salient point of the increasing rejection and disguise inside the Armed Forces and the mounting of popular revolution which will no doubt bring down Numayri and throw him into the scrap heat of history despite Egyptian protection and the American air bridge.

Mubarak's Position on Sudan Considered 'Shameful'

LD192128 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1945 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Mar (JANA) — Yesterday's meeting between Husni Mubarak, president of the Egyptian regime, and Nicholas Veliotes, the U.S. ambassador to Egypt, has come within the framework of arranging the situation in Sudan so that it becomes suitable for Egyptian-U.S. military intervention in the Sudan.

The order by Ronald Reagan, head of the U.S. Administration, to dispatch AWACS aircraft to Egypt is one of the results of the meeting which was held after the destruction of the radio and television station in Omdurman last Friday.

The movements of the Egyptian regime reveal the substance of this puppet regime, which has tied its destiny to the United States and dedicated itself to serving U.S. strategy in the region.

If we look closely at the substance and meaning of Husni Mubarak's meeting with the U.S. ambassador and at the secret messages exchanged with the head of the U.S. Administration, then the truth will emerge with all sides clear. At the same time, we will understand who Husni Mubarak's regime in Egypt represents.

The head of the Egyptian regime has committed shameful actions and has shown meanness which explains why he is at the top of the regime. He understands well that nobody is going to believe his claims or the U.S. claims that there is an external danger against the regime of the underling Numayri in Khartoum. He also understands, and the U.S. Administration understands, that the underling Numayri's regime in Khartoum does not need military protection for its rule, because it does not rule the country anymore in light of the current circumstances — the revolution in the south, and the popular rebellion in the north and in the rest of the governorates.

On the basis of this, Husni Mubarak's call to the U.S. Administration to intervene beside his forces is very significant and has a clear meaning. It means that he is no longer hiding his true intent and aspirations that Sudan should come under Egyptian control at the will of the United States.

What kind of vileness characterizes the behavior of this regime, and what kind of shame will this regime bring on our nation? The head of the Egyptian regime has definitely proved that in addition to being an employee of the U.S. State Department, he is a policeman of the United States, its obedient servant, and one of its lackies and agent symbols in theregion. He wants to falsify the will of the Egyptian people and strike a blow against the will of the Sudanese people. He also wants Sudan to become an extension of the empire that he would rule. This empire was prepared for with the so-called Egyptian-Sudanese integration, and the establishment of the Nile Valley Parliament. These were all in the course of preparing for a fascist move such as this one, which started on the basis of fabricated and false pretexts and justifications so that Sudan would be in the grip of the Egyptian regime and the U.S. These are the true motives for the move made by the Egyptian regime backed by a U.S. air-bridge of military equipment and spy planes.

These motives are based on a joint U.S.-Egyptian conspiratorial plan that will lead to tension in the region. It will expose security and stability in the region to grave dangers that would not be only be aimed at the Sudanese people, but aimed at their brothers in Libya and all the progressive forces in the region.

Foreign Liaison Secretary, UN Chief Discuss Sudan

LD192158 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] New York, 19 Mar (JANA) — Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, had a meeting this evening with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the president of

the Security Council this month, the Peruvian delegate. The allegations and charges of the underling Numayri against the Jamahiriyah were discussed.

During this meeting, the secretary of the Bureau categorically rebutted the Numayri allegations that the Jamahiriyah was involved in what recently happened in Sudan.

He also stressed to the UN secretary general that these allegations by underling Numayri are intended only to cover up his domestic problems and the instability and deterioration in the country, as well as justify foreign intervention in Sudan.

He affirmed that the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison rejects these allegations and slanders on the part of the underling Numayri, allegations which are meant to discredit the Jamahiriyah.

Egyptian 'Occupation' Forces in Sudan Condemned
LD200958 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Mar (JANA) — The Egyptian Government paper *AL-AHRAM* has reported that some Egyptian forces have actually taken up positions in the Sudanese territories on the direct orders of President Mubarak.

Reporting this today, the paper did not attempt to conceal the treacherous intentions harbored by the Husni Mubarak regime against the Libyan Arab people; nor did it attempt to conceal the aggressive nature of the Egyptian military move in the Sudanese territories and the aggressive intentions behind this military penetration in Sudan. The paper said that the Egyptian forces were sent to Sudan as a practical reply to what it called attempts directed against the regime of the Sudanese lackey.

Thus the mercenary agents of the Cairo government reveal the treacherous intentions they have drawn up so carefully to establish themselves in the Sudanese territories in compliance with America's wishes.

The Cairo agent regime serves the American policy best, perhaps even more than it is served by Kissinger, Haig and Shultz and Weinberger, since the members of the Egyptian regime are lackeys bowing to the United States. They are agents stripped of all ethics who do not hesitate to commit disgraceful acts just to appease Washington.

The Egyptian military move is tantamount to an official declaration of occupation of Sudan. Hence it is the duty of the international organizations and bodies and all the peace and security-loving forces to rise and condemn this direct occupation which is taking place at the behest of American imperialism and which seeks to commit aggression on the Libyan Arab country, which stands faithfully against all the imperialist policies that seek to impose hegemony, submission and surrender on peoples.

The Sudanese people, who are suffering from a bloodthirsty regime, are now living under the yoke of an Egyptian-American occupation. It is our duty to alert the world to the severe ordeal that the Sudanese Arab people are experiencing. All must rush to declare support and offer help to check the occupation forces, the remnants of the Mameluks and their brute force, and the American war machine which threatens the freedom and dignity of these people and which is being used to threaten and provoke the Libyan Arab people.

Convoy Said Attacked in S. Chad; 6 Sudanese Killed
LD192124 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Yaounde, 19 Mar (JANA) — Diplomatic sources in the Cameroonian capital have stated that a column of trucks was attacked 30 km from the town of Mondou in southern Chad.

In the attack, 12 trucks were burned out and 6 Sudanese, believed to be military, were killed. The same sources stated that the trucks, loaded with goods, were proceeding toward Sudan.

The sources did not rule out that the trucks were carrying military equipment and supplies of the type United States has provided the forces of the rebel Habre in Ndjamena.

Students in Tripoli Condemn UK 'Wave of Terror'
LD191413 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] There was an angry student demonstration this morning in Tripoli in denounciation of the campaign of hatred and the wave of terror against Libyan Arab students in Britain on the part of the British police.

Angry student masses went to the British Embassy in Tripoli denouncing the unjust campaign which the British Government has launched on the basis of false claims that Libyan citizens are responsible for explosions in London and Manchester. The student masses also denounced the aggression by the British police on a number of students and the breaking into the homes of others.

A communique released by the student masses emphasizes that the Libyan Arab people, which has endured the eras of monarchies and republics, cannot remain silent over the excesses of the British Government that are full of enmity and rancor; and the Libyan Arab people, which on its own land possesses authority, wealth, and arms, is capable of responding in kind to all the evil practices of the British Government police against Libyan citizens in Britain. The communique adds that the Libyan Arab people forcefully affirm their determination to fight their enemies at home and abroad, and to liquidate those elements still dreaming of high-ranking posts and thrones, so that they may be able to strengthen their freedom and consecrate their popular power.

In their communique the student masses blame British Government for receiving the stray dogs fleeing from the appearance of civilizational reforms and victories achieved by the Libyan Arab people in various domains, stressing that these persons will be reached by the long arm of the people sooner or later wherever they are.

MAURITANIA

Haydala Cables King Fahd on Recognition of SDAR

LD190006 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] His Excellency Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, has sent a telegram to the head of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Majesty King Fahd 'Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, following the accusations which Morocco had made against our country, concerning the At-Ta'if agreement. Here is the text of the telegram:

Your Majesty and Dear Brother: The press has acquainted us with the content of the letter that His Majesty King Hassan II, the king of Morocco, has sent to you, concerning the Islamic Republic of Mauritania's recognition of the SDAR.

The letter asserted that this measure constituted a hostile action against Morocco and was a violation of the At-Ta'if agreement. The matter undoubtedly means that Your Majesty has observed that that was an erroneous interpretation and a falsification of facts.

Your Majesty, you have effectively participated in the drafting of the At-Ta'if agreement. You were the best witness to the goodwill and the complete readiness of Mauritania to conclude this agreement.

Mauritania has never ceased to call for the implementation of the text of the agreement; and in so doing, it is expressing its good intentions and goodwill. The Moroccan authorities regrettably have continued to shelter the Mauritanian mercenaries and to finance their activities, which constitutes a blatant violation of the provisions of the agreement.

It is worth noting that this clearly hostile attitude of our Moroccan brothers has not been met on our part by a reaction that violates the spirit and text of the At-Ta'if agreement. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania is still prepared to establish cordial relations with the fraternal Moroccan Kingdom.

Despite this genuine desire to develop and strengthen relations with the area states, we will not agree to let these relations be at the expense of one of the states concerned.

Your Majesty, the policy Mauritania has been following since 10 July 1978 in the Arab Maghreb is based on establishing frank and honest relations that are based on mutual respect of national sovereignty and noninterference in the domestic affairs of all states of the area without exception.

Our withdrawal from the fratricidal war in the Western Sahara as well as our recognition of the legitimate rights of the Saharan people to self-determination in accordance with principles upheld by the international community and the independent decision to recognize the SDAR were based on this policy.

Any other interpretation of this decision can only come from a deliberate desire to tarnish the reputation of our country and to harm the interests of its people. This erroneous interpretation will not dissuade us from earnestly continuing the efforts to establish peace and amity in the lands of the Arab Maghreb.

Our recognition of the SDAR will provide us with the opportunity to participate much more effectively in realizing this objective, which is dear to us. We know that Your Majesty is striving to achieve this, because it serves the interests of the Arab nation and the entire Islamic nation.

Your Majesty, please accept the highest forms of fraternal esteem.

[Signed] Your Brother, Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala

Haydala Receives Message From SDAR President

AB161050 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and the head of state, has received the following message from SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz in response to a message addressed to him on the occasion of the celebration of the SDAR's national day:

Mr President, it was with much pleasure that we received the message in which you made it a point to express to our combatant people your fraternal greetings and sincere congratulations on behalf of the government and people of Mauritania on the occasion of the celebration of the eighth independence anniversary of our country. In the same message, you informed us of the decision of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to recognize the SDAR. In fact, this decision had a great impact [words indistinct] especially as it came at a time when our people were celebrating the eighth anniversary of the SDAR. This decision demonstrates your attachment to the strong relationship existing between our two sister countries and your support for the rights of peoples to self-determination, independence, and national sovereignty — a prime factor for the peaceful coexistence and goodneighborliness among states and peoples. Furthermore, this decision indicates a deep awareness of the real interests of our two peoples — the Western Saharans and the Mauritanians — and testifies to your support for the superior interests of Africa, particularly those of the people of our region.

The recognition of the SDAR by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania constitutes an important contribution to the restoration of peace in this region and the installation of a constructive and fruitful cooperation between the north African countries and the Arab Maghreb region. This is the logical position of the 10 July Movement that is in conformity with the peace agreement of 5 August, with the aspirations of the two peoples, and especially with the nature of the relations which must exist between our two countries.

For our part, we reaffirm our devotion to the consolidation of these relations and hope that they will be extended to all fields

for the progress, prosperity and happiness of our two peoples in conditions of peace, unity, and harmony.

Despite the conditions of war imposed on us by a neighboring country which has chosen to take over from the colonial power, we wish to assure you that we will make every effort to achieve a peaceful, just, and final solution to this unjust war which serves only the interests of the enemies of Africa who are fanning the fire of confrontation and insecurity in the region.

The 19th African summit in Addis Ababa and its resolutions which were approved by the international community during the 38th session of the UN General Assembly in fact constituted an exemplary basis for the settlement of the Western Saharan conflict. [Words indistinct] the reconstruction move founded on cooperation, mutual confidence, and the peaceful coexistence of countries of the region. However, our goodwill — rather the goodwill of all of Africa and of the international community — was blocked by the rejection of these resolutions by the Kingdom of Morocco, which preferred the escalation and continuation of its unjust war against the SDAR instead of responding positively to the call of peace that should lead to the establishment of an honest cooperation aimed at the realization of the aspirations of the peoples of the region. In spite of this, we hope that things will become normal again, resulting in the elimination of all the obstacles which still stand in the way of peace in order to help achieve the aspirations of our peoples.

Mr President, I must express to you once more, on behalf of the government and people of the SDAR, our high appreciation for your sincere will and the relentless efforts you have been making for the establishment of a just peace and sincere cooperation [words indistinct] in accordance with the interests and aspirations of all the peoples of the region. I also address our sincere greetings to you and through you to the brotherly Mauritanian people. Highest regards.

Authorities Blame Libya for Student Unrest

AB190755 Paris AFP in English 0720 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Nouakchott, March 19 (AFP) — The authorities here are accusing Libya, without naming it, of stirring up nationwide student unrest in the wake of Mauritania's recent recognition of the guerrillas fighting Moroccan occupation of neighbouring Western Sahara. The official media have denounced a "destabilisation campaign" and hinted that Libya, which opposes the guerrillas' Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, is behind it. A number of pro-Libyan teachers and schoolchildren have been arrested, but reports abroad that clashes have occurred in which one person was killed are denied here.

The unrest began in schools in the towns of Atar and Aioun immediately after Mauritania recognised the Saharan Republic on February 27 and then spread to secondary schools in Nouakchott, where students went on strike. According to the authorities, no education demands were made to justify the strikes, which they say were often fomented by outside agitators in a bid to get the students onto the streets. The unrest is now under control, they claim.

In 1982, Mauritania closed down Libyan cultural centres here and expelled Libyan diplomats. Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi visited Nouakchott last July and Mauritanian head of state Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala later visited Tripoli twice.

But Col al-Qadhdhafi subsequently aligned himself with Morocco's fierce opposition to the guerrillas and relations cooled. Now, officials here say, there is a Tripoli-Rabat propaganda "axis" with Mauritania as the target.

Mauritania originally occupied Western Sahara jointly with Morocco when Spain pulled out of the territory in 1975. But the Mauritanians made peace with the guerrillas in 1978 and withdrew their forces.

MOROCCO

Saudi King's Refusal To See Mauritanian Lauded

LD191316 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Rabat, Mar 19 (MAP) — King Fahd's refusal to receive the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs is a mark of King Fahd's total disapproval of Mauritania's denial of the commitment it made when it signed the At-Ta'if treaty in 1981 relating to relations of brotherhood and neighbourliness with Morocco, underlined political milieux in Morocco.

Taking this stand, the same sources added, the Saudi sovereign sides with justice and denounces Mauritania's disinterestedness vis-a-vis the principles ruling relations between nations and peoples.

Moroccan political milieux also underlined that Morocco has always endeavored for the consolidation of her relations and the strengthening of her ties with neighbouring Mauritania and remained faithful to the treaty of At-Ta'if, and this in spite of the hostile attitude of the Mauritania Government with regard to Morocco's territorial integrity.

In return, the same sources added, this was not the case with Mauritania, which crowned its denial of the commitment in recognizing the so-called "SDAR" (self-proclaimed Saharan Democratic Arab Republic).

Sudanese Minister Arrives, Notes 'Privileged' Ties

LD191318 Rabat MAP in English 1224 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Casablanca, Mar 19 (MAP) — Sudanese Minister of Transportand Communications Mr Khalid Hasan 'Abbas arrived here Saturday for a visit to Morocco.

He said his visit would further consolidate bilateral relations and bring closer the Moroccan and Sudanese peoples. He also recalled the privileged relations existing between President Ja'far Numayri and King Hassan II of Morocco.

SUDAN

Libyan Pilots in Omdurman Bombing Raid Identified

JN201530 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Rome, 20 Mar (SUNA) — Sources close to the Libyan Air Force have indicated that the Libyan bomber, a Russian-made Tupolev TU-22, that carried out the treacherous raid on the residential areas of Omdurman last Friday morning was piloted by Lieutenant Colonel Salim Ahmad 'Abdallah and Major Murad Nasr ad-Din al-Karmani.

It is worth mentioning that the aircraft took off from the Al-Kufrah airbase in Libya to carry out its criminal mission and returned to the same base after bombing civilian targets in the city of Omdurman. It flew at low altitudes during its entry and exit, avoiding radar and detection systems.

Further Reaction to Bombing Raid in Omdurman

Salihin: Radio Station Unsilenced

JN171728 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA) — Minister of National Guidance and Information Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, in a statement to SUNA, said the main purpose of the treacherous aggression against the city of Omdurman yesterday is to silence the voice of the radio station, the revolution, and the people. He said that the plan failed and did not realize its objectives. He also said that out of their responsibility, the employees of the radio station and the television will continue to carry out their sacred duties toward the homeland and the revolution, and that neither the radio station nor the television will be silenced.

He added that the radio station and the television will [word indistinct] the nation's will and will confront any challenge against the homeland whatver the source may be. He also praised the television and radio station employees' firm role in all the battles that the revolution waged for the sake of unity, construction, progress and repulsing the sinful aggressions aimed at harming our accomplishments and gains. He added: We will lie in wait for all the sinful attempts and will remain loyal soldiers to the leader and revolution.

Salihin also explained that pictures of the destruction that resulted from the bombing yesterday were sent to about 50 foreign television stations by satellite. He added that 50 pictures were also prepared to be sent our embassies by the Foreign Ministry. He also said that foreign correspondents in Sudan were also provided with similar pictures. He added that the meetings at the SSU Headquarters yesterday and the president's speech at the People's Armed Forces General Command today were recorded and are to be transmitted through the satellite of the Nile Valley Radio Station to the Sudanese citizens and the Arab brothers so that people can understand the Sudanese people's position and their adherence to their leadership and Army. He added that he held contacts with the Cairo papers today to acquaint them with the incident's details. He also said that a television message was sent to Dubai via the satellites.

Madani Briefs Diplomats

JN191624 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Mar (SUNA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mustafa Madani met here this morning with African ambassadors and heads of African diplomatic missions in Khartoum and explained to them that Sudan made a complaint to the OAU, submitted a memorandum to the Arab League, and requested a speedy meeting of the Security Council to consider the recent Libyan aggression against Sudan. During his meeting with the African ambassadors, the minister also explained that the aggression represents a link in a chain of past and future aggressions by the Libyan regime [words indistinct]. He added that [words indistinct] the denunciations which came from the Arab and friendly countries and the superpowers confirm support for Sudan, especially from the African Continent, pointing out that Sudan does not seek any foreign help to defend its territory and sovereignty, because Sudan is able to do that itself. He added that such support from African and foreign countries constitutes a deterrent to Al-Qadhdhafi's action in the African countries in particular.

The minister added that he requested the African brothers to reflect these fears that we know better than others to their countries in order to deter such Libyan actions in Sudan and Africa, pointing out that Sudan believes in the principle of good neighborliness and did not take any action against Libyan territories or authorities at a time when the Libyan regime is launching aggression on Sudanese territory by all means and ways.

Mustafa Madani noted that the Libyan regime has launched aggressions against the Sudanese territories, the last of which was the brutal action [against Omdurman]. The Libyan authorities at the highest level and the Libyan president himself have asserted that they will continue to train and support Sudan's opponents and mercenaries in order to topple the Sudanese regime.

The minister said that he had explained to the African diplomats that such aggression would not even occur between two states which are in a state of war, namely, the capital of a country was hit by bombs. This situation means that the Libyan president and authorities disregard all values and morals and violate all international charters, norms, and laws.

Ambassador Sees UN Head

JN191847 Khartoum SUNA in English 1800 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] United Nations, Mar 19 (SUNA) — Ambassador 'Umar Birido of the Sudan met here today with the secretary general of UN and delivered a letter describing the recent events in the Sudan.

Immediately following the meeting with the secretary general, ambassador of the Sudan met with the president of the Security Council to discuss the schedule of a possible meeting of the Security Council.

General Assesses Raid, Damage

EA162113 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Here is the speech of General Babikr 'Abd ar-Rahim, secretary of the SSU Regular Forces Committee:

[Begin recording] What happened today was a wicked and at the same time painful act. At the beginning I shall repeat to you the unembellished facts as they appeared in a statement from the Armed Forces:

At about 1130 this morning an unidentified airplane of the Tupolev type, TU-22, Russian-made, approached from the southwest, moving parallel to the Nile. It carried out a raid on the city of Omdurman and dropped five bombs weighing 250 pounds. Two houses were hit, as were two cars in the Riviera Park area. One bomb hit an administrative building of the broadcasting station, injuring some citizens. I shall give the details presently. They suffered various wounds and they were given aid immediately. The airplane fled toward the northwest.

The General Command confirms to the People's Armed Forces in all their sections, on land and at sea, that they have been placed on full alert to stem any aggression [applause] against the homeland. The Sudanese airspace has also been secured against any possible aggression.

The losses and the wounded are as follows: There were five martyrs, two were in a house or were working in front of their houses, two near vehicles by the Nile bank, another one on the road. Two persons were wounded. They received first aid at the roadside. Two houses were destroyed and four cars hit, two were [word indistinct] and two were in the houses.

Part of the wall of the broadcasting station was destroyed, as was an administrative office of the broadcasting station.

One bomb has not exploded, but your brave forces from the Engineer Corps are at this moment working, while I am sitting here, to defuse the bomb. The bomb has been rendered safe and will be taken to a place where it will be exploded. It has caused some damage to the wall of the house on which it fell.

Reportage on 'Arafat Meetings, Addresses in Khartoum

Press Conference Held

JN191933 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Mar (SUNA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has announced that he held talks here with Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian foreign under secretary and director of the presidential office for political affairs, on common issues and topics related to the Palestinian and Arab arena and the challenges facing it.

In a press conference held here today, 'Arafat said that he handed Al-Baz a message addressed to President Husni Mubarak, dealing with the latest developments in the region and expressing his thanks to President Mubarak for his stand during his recent visit to the United States and his clarification of Egypt's attitude toward the Palestine question and the Palestinian leadership.

'Arafat added that he also discussed with Al-Baz the ways and means to bring about the success of the international conference in solidarity with the Palestinian people that the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee is seeking to hold in Cairo.

Asked about the possibility of reaching a joint Palestinian formula that could contribute to a peaceful solution in the region within or outside the framework of the proposed initiatives, the Palestinian leader said: The PNC had previously decided to establish Palestinian-Jordanian confederal relations. Dialogue with the Jordanian brothers began after the convocation of the PNC in Algiers last year. He indicated that no agreement was reached on a solution regarding the contents of the meeting, and said: We were careful to leave the door open after the suspension of talks.

'Arafat added that he resumed the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue last month. He described this dialogue as successful and based on principles of frankness and fraternity so that the joint efforts can be pooled for the sake of rescuing the kinfolk and territory. He indicated that a joint statement was issued explaining the new relationship that should be jointly observed, proceeding from these principles and taking into consideration the resolutions of the PNC, the PLO — the sole legitimate representative — and the Fes summit, as well as the situation of our kinfolk in the occupied territory, these kinfolk's full support for the PLO, and the joint movement in the European arena and the international power which influences the Middle East events.

'Arafat announced that joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations will leave for the Arab countries to gain support for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Other joint political delegations will leave for Europe, the socialist states, and other countries in an attempt to achieve positive results in the near future.

Regarding the Soviet Union's stand toward the Palestine question, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said: The Soviet Union was hesitant [ha'ir] between the friend and the ally. It exerted efforts to stop the war which took place, but unfortunately, its efforts did not succeed. He said: The cultural challenges facing all the Arab countries require us to overlook our small entities.

On the way to confront the Zionist-imperialist plan which seeks to fragment the Arab nation and on the possibility of getting out of this impasse, 'Arafat said that there is a Zionist-colonialist plan to Balkanize the Arab region, and added that he talked about this after the Palestinian strugglers' departure from Lebanon.

He continued: We must not allow this sectarian plot to be peddled in Lebanon. There must be a serious and responsible Arab movement on all levels so that we can confront this plot together. This dictates an end to the current Arab fragmentation.

Struggler Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the Palestinian rights are taken and not given. He added: The Palestinian people cannot wait for the new U.S. President to obtain for them their rights

from the Israelis. He said that the Palestinian forces are capable of confronting and continuing the war of attrition in the occupied territories.

On the possibility of transferring the PLO's headquarters to Jordan, he said: We cannot ignore the benefits of our presence near the occupied territory despite the challenges facing us. However, we leave this matter to the Jordanian brothers.

In his press conference, the Palestinian leader pointed out that the Palestinian armies are considered the armies of cadres and can be doubled at any moment. He noted the presence of Palestinian women in the Palestinian army and noted the woman's effective role in using modern weapons.

Replying to a question on opening dialogue with the democratic forces in the occupied territory, Yasir 'Arafat said: The 13th PNC Congress adopted a resolution on opening dialogue with all democratic and progressive forces inside and outside Israel. Meetings and negotiations were held with a large number of these forces. He referred to a petition submitted by 22 Knesset members in which they said that the Palestinians should be given the right to self-determination.

'Arafat Addresses People's Assembly

JN192005 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1850 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Mar (SUNA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has emphasized that the Sudanese people could not be terrified by bombs and aircraft, as the ones who send them might imagine. He added that the will of God will certainly triumph.

Addressing a People's Assembly session, 'Arafat said that the Sudanese people have supported the heroic Palestinian people in good and bad days and that his current visit to Sudan is part of the debt he owes to Sudan.

He recalled that although the Sudanese people were under colonialism and occupation in 1947, they helped the Palestinian people in their predicament and their defense of Jerusalem. He added that he had the honor of fighting alongside the Sudanese there. He also recalled President Numayri's stand when he went to Amman during the 1970 war to rescue the Palestinian revolution. He indicated that he left the Fatah Military Council's meetings before they were completed as soon as he heard of the treacherous raid on Omdurman. He said that he came to be with the Sudanese people in their confrontation of this challenge.

In his speech, the Palestinian leader stressed that what is happening in southern Sudan is part of a large Zionist plan that coincides with what is happening in Lebanon, between Iraq and Iran, and in the occupied territory. He said that this is a comprehensive plot to Balkanize the Arab region and divide it into small and weak entities so that it will be easy to control them and obstruct their cultural awakening.

Yasir 'Arafat added: The Arab nation is entering a dark tunnel, and several sides are trying to make this tunnel longer and to impose Balkanization on the Arab homeland. He said that the emergence of the concept of sectarian cantons in Lebanon is only one small proof of this. He announced that the Palestinian revolution has strongly resisted the attempts to throw it in the sectarian hell in Lebanon. He spoke about the plot to evacuate the Palestinian resistance from Tripoli, stressing that it was a crime similar to Sharon's crimes and that the Beirut battle and all the Palestinian revolution battles were the battles of the Arab homeland.

Struggler 'Arafat warned of the plots to Balkanize and partition the Arab homeland into entities and ministates. He emphasized that once this cancer begins it will spread throughout the Arab homeland. He also warned that the emergence of sectarian ministates will be a new excuse for Israel to consecrate its religious fanaticism.

In his address, Yasir 'Arafat clarified that his visit to Cairo after the departure from Tripoli was not only to thank Egypt for what it has given the Palestinian revolution during the battle of Tripoli, but also to restore balance to the region.

'Arafat noted that the PNC decided in its meetings in Algeria to get closer to Egypt as it moves away from the Camp David accords which tried to remove Egypt from the arena. He said that we must struggle and fight to overcome the effects of the Camp David.

Yasir 'Arafat announced that Egypt must restore its leading positionin the Arab world with its human, cultural, military, and political weight. He said that in this respect, Sudan's responsibility is doubled due to its distinguished historical relations with Egypt.

'Arafat called for comprehensive struggle against schemes of division and Balkanization in southern Sudan, Lebanon, and the Arab Gulf. He asserted his confidence in the victory of the Arab nation against its enemies despite the dark channel through whcih it is passing now.

The Palastinian struggler urged the People's Assembly to adopt a resolution for convening the Afro-Arab summit conference in Khartoum, the capital of the Afro-Arab meeting.

In his address before the Assembly, 'Arafat said that Sudan's unique position and role at the Arab and African levels qualify Sudan to become a cultural link between Africa and the Arab world. He noted that this is a historic responsibility Sudan's Government and people must shoulder. He said that there are imperialist and colonialist forces and conspiracies that aim at placing barriers and mines between the Arab nation and Africa.

'Arafat asserted that the Afro-Arab rapprochement and the cooperation among the countries and people of Africa, Asia, and Latin America is a historic challege to prevent the plundering of their material and human resources.

'Arafat concluded his address, asserting his confidence that the Palestinian revolution adheres to its only option; namely, fighting until victory.

PLO-Sudanese Ties Reaffirmed

JN191922 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 19 (SUNA) — Sudan today reaffirmed its firm and resolute attitude on backing the Palestinian revolution under its sole and legitimate leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The speaker of the National People's Assembly 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid, addressing an Assembly sitting attended by visiting Chairman of (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat, voiced the idea that Sudan flatly rejected any attempts of meddling in the internal affairs of the Palestinians. Sudan is persistently stressing the necessity of independent Palestinian decision and consolidating of the Palestinian struggle, the pioneer of the Arab struggle and symbol of the Arab will, the speaker said. The speaker appealed to Arab parties to stem their bids of imposing protectorate on the Palestinian revolution.

As-Sayyid in his capacity as chairman of the Interparliamentary Union (PLO) disclosed that an immediate move on all parliamentary levels would be launched to affirm the right of the Palestinian National Council's members in particaption on behalf of the occupied lands.

Mr as-Sayyid stressed the unity of struggle between Sudanese and Palestinian people citing that the weapons directed against the Palestinian people are the same which were used in striking Omdurman and they were in favour of Israel and contrary to the Arab revolution.

The speaker commended 'Arafat's attitudes towards all ordeals and conspiracies being meted out to Sudan.

As-Sayyid cautioned that the Arab nation is passing a critical stage where the challenge outstrips the [word indistinct] of land and meanaces the entity of the whole Arabs. He cited the Palestinian revolution as the logical rejection of the Arab national to any form of backwardness, fragmentation and partition of the Arab lands. The Palestinian revolution has been subjected to incessant fierce attacks carried out by those who had been counted as the friends of the revolution, he said.

'Arafat Departs 20 Mar

JN201102 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Mar (SUNA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Khartoum this morning following a 3-day visit to Sudan. During the visit, he held talks with President Numayri and the senior state officials. 'Arafat also addressed a special session of the Sudanese People's Assembly and expressed the Palestinian people's solidarity with the Sudanese people and dneounced the reckless Libyan raid on Omdurman.

In a statement prior to his departure, 'Arafat said that he held constructive and fruitful talks with his brother President Numayri on the current Arab and Palestinian situation. He added: We reached positive and good results. He pointed out that his meeting with the People's Assembly speaker and members expressed the strong relations between the Palestinian and Sudanese peoples. [passage indistinct]

TUNISIA

Mzali Delivers Bourguiba Statement on 3 Jan Riots

LD170103 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Summary] The House of Representatives held a general meeting today. Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali delivered a statement by President of the Republic Habib Bourguiba concerning the recent events in Tunisia:

Honorable Members, it gives me pleasure to deliver the statement by the president of the Republic about the painful events which took place in January:

"Towards the end of last December the country witnessed dangerous, painful, simultaneous events which led to disorder in a number of cities and which reached their climax on 3 January 1984. These events are known to all. However, it is good to recall them and to recall the measures which we took in order to bring back tranquillity and security."

The events started on 29 December in the south following the government's decision to lift the support for the Compensation Fund [subsidies] for cereals and their derivatives. This resulted in an increase in the price of flour, pasta, and bread. Demonstrations condemning this step took place in various cities.

"The nature of the protest demonstrations changed when anarchists, people with bad intentions and previous convictions, and idlers joined in and the demonstrations turned against the regime, with plunder, burning, attacks on the security forces and the public and private offices.

"Following the events in the south and the central provinces and the coming to force of the decision on lifting the support for cereals, the situation in the capital became very explosive on 2 January." There were demonstrations in various parts of the capital on 3 January. Attacks took place against shops, public and private buildings and cars, and against citizens.

"The security forces were overcome by the events because of the police command intentionally paralyzed their activity by not giving them the necessary instructions and not mobilizing them to confront the situation, and by disarming some of them. Thus they lost control and we asked the army to re-establish order. Its forces took positions in the capital streets starting on noon Tuesday [3 January]. These events resulted in a number of victims among citizens and security forces. There were 84 deaths, 590 wounded civilians, and 348 wounded security men. In some cases death resulted from the stoning by demonstrators.

"In the face of this situation we declared a state of emergency in the whole country and we decided to ban demonstrations and declare a curfew in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, especially Articles 3, 41, and 53, which empower the head of state to exercise the executive power and make him the

guarantor of the Constitution, the law, and the overseer of the normal functioning of the public (?amenities) and implementation of the law."

"Thus a state of emergency was declared. This has enabled the security forces to reestablish order. Then we decided on 6 January to abolish the increase in the price of cereals and their derivatives and we asked the government to present a new budget within 3 months. And we abolished the capital's police authority, for the events of 3 January demonstrated its inefficiency.

"In order to define the responsibilities and find out the various motives and full reasons for the violation of order in the country, especially in the capital, we set up a committee of inquiry in accordance with Order No 22 for 1984, dated 15 January 1984, headed by a senior judge. Within the context of the task entrusted to it and after hearing statements by 56 persons, officials, and citizens, it prepared a report which it presented to us on Monday, 12 March 1984. The committee confirmed the intention by the police command to paralyze the activity of the police, and that the command was unable to carry out its task which was primarily to guarantee the protection of persons and safeguard public and private offices for several reasons cited by the committee of inquiry in its report. The responsibility for them in the first degree rests on the shoulders of the former minister of interior, who intentionally embarked on misleading us, thus harming the supreme interests of the nation. He also intentionally put his private interests above the supreme interests of the country, thus damaging those interests and the reputation of the country, and by doing so he has thus committed the crime of supreme treason in accordance with the meaning of Section 68 of the Constitution and the second chapter of Law (11?) for 1970, dated 1 April 1970, concerning the organization of the Supreme Court.

"Therefore, we decided that justice should take it course. And since the matter concerns the committing of the supreme treason crime by a member of the government, the Supreme Court will deal with the case." In accordance with the law, the House of Representatives should choose from its members four official members and three representative members in order to form a Supreme Court.

National Assembly Approves New Taxes, Import Levies

LD171759 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The National Assembly ended at approximately 0600 today the work which it started yesterday morning and which was devoted to debating the extra draft budget for the year 1984 and a bill concerning the amendment of the law, dated December 1983, determining development expenditures for 1984. Following prolonged discussions the Assembly approved these two bills with the opposition of only two members.

As for the extra budget, it contains 29 sections which create new taxes on beer, spirits, and wine, travel abroad, and an additional levy on luxury goods, and a tax on the registration of vehicles, driving licenses, and transport licenses. The budget also includes provisions concerning import levies.

Ministry Source Denies Essebsi, 'Ali To Meet

GF171956 Doha QNA in Arabic 1835 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 17 Mar (QNA) — A responsible source at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry has denied that there have been any arrangements to hold a meeting between Beji Caid Essebsi, Tunisian foreign affairs minister, and Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian foreign affairs minister, in the next weeks. The source was commenting to the QNA correspondent in Tunis on the report which was published by the Egyptian magazine *OCTOBER* today on diplomatic contacts between the two countries to hold such a meeting.

CAMEROON

Cooperation Commission With Yugoslavia Meets

AB162020 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] The second session of the Yugoslav-Cameroonian joint commission on cooperation, which began its deliberations in Yaounde yesterday, is examining bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

In his opening speech, Cameroonian Foreign Minister Felix Tonye Mbog said it was time now to usher in a new era of cooperation between Cameroon and Yugoslavia by giving a new impetus to our relations. Minister Tonye Mbog said this meeting of the joint commission is a landmark in the history of friendship and cooperation between our two peoples and governments.

On his part, the Yugoslav minister, Jon Srbovan, insisted on the complementarity of our two economies. The Yugoslav Government will continue to develop its bilateral cooperation with our country, he added. The Yugoslav Government will make it a point to mobilize its country's businessmen and investors. Similar efforts must be made by our country. All in all, the second session of the Yugoslav-Cameroonian joint commission on cooperation will contribute to the revival of our relations, as our foreign minister, Tonye Mbog, stated:

[Begin recording] This second session of the joint commission — the ideal forum for consultations between both countries — should contribute to the revival, strengthening, and promotion of our cooperative relations at all levels. Friendship and mutual understanding have always been the permanent features of the relations between our two countries which work hand in hand within the Nonaligned Movement. In pursuance of their foreign policies, both countries are very much attached to the safeguarding of their national independence, the same ideals of peace, detente, dialogue, friendship, and cooperation with all nations of goodwill.

Even though our economic exchanges remain relatively modest, I believe that they will develop significantly thanks to the decisions we will make during the present deliberations. [end recording]

Session Yields Agreement

AB191147 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] The deliberations of the second session of the Yugoslav-Cameroonian joint commission on cooperation ended in Yaounde yesterday afternoon. The Yugoslav delegation agreed in principle to certain projects including the road work project linking Yaounde and the Gabonese border, the Edea-Kribi road, rural telephone links, and so on.

Cameroonian Foreign Minister Felix Tonye Mbog said the outcome of the session was beyond expectations.

Loan From Belgium To Finance Water Projects

AB180750 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Cameroon yesterday received a loan of 750 million CFA francs from the Belgian Government to finance various water projects in the central and south provinces. Signing for the money, the minister of state for planning and territorial development [title as received], Youssoufa Daouda, said the loan was further evidence of Belgian interest and involvement in Cameroon development endeavors. The loan is repayable over 20 years.

CAPE VERDE

Guinea-Bissau-Cape Verde Communique Issued in Praia

AB192040 Luanda ANGOP in French 1650 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Praia, 19 Mar [ANGOP] — The heads of state of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde have expressed their total support for the efforts being made by the Angolan and Mozambican Governments to safeguard their independence and national sovereignty by making valid contributions to the search for a peaceful solution to the problem prevailing in southern Africa.

According to the Portuguese news agency ANGOP, the joint communique issued in Praia on Sunday at the end of the official talks between Presidents Nino Vieira and Aristides Pereira said the two presidents acknowledged that the current situation prevailing in southern Africa represents a source of danger and a serious threat to world peace and security.

The two heads of state, ANGOP added, also reasserted their conviction that the establishment of longlasting and just peace in southern Africa necessarily depends on Namibia's independence in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No 435/78 and on the elimination of the inhuman system of apartheid.

The two parties called on all OAU member states to do everything in their power to protect and strengthen the OAU through negotiations and dialogue, the agency concluded.

GHANA

Cuban Foreign Minister Arrives for 5-Day Visit

AB200600 Accra Domestic Service in English 2145 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] A four-man Cuban delegation, led by the foreign minister, Isodoro Malmierca, arrived in Accra this evening for a 5-day official visit to the country. Speaking to newsmen at the Kotoka International Airport, Mr Malmeirca said the delegation's visit is to acquaint itself with events in Ghana and to further strengthen the cordial relations between Cuba and Ghana.

Touching on Ghanaian students now studying in Cuba, the minister commended them for their outstanding academic performances. He said the students have expressed their satisfaction with their stay.

On the presence of Cuban troops in Angola, Mr Malmierca said they are there under a defense pact between the two countries. He reiterated that the Namibia independence issue should not be linked to the withdrawal of Cuban troops in Angola, adding that Cuba is determined to defend the territorial integrity of the Angolan people and to any other countries who have true sovereign (?status).

Mr Malmierca was met on arrival by the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Assamoah, and some members of the diplomatic corps.

Soviet Installation of Nuclear Reactor Discussed

AB191330 Paris AFP in French 1423 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Accra, 17 Mar [AFP] — A seven-member official Soviet delegation on Thursday visited the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission at Kwabenya, Accra, a nuclear project which benefitted from Soviet assistance and was abandoned in 1966 after the overthrow of Nkrumah's regime.

Mr Maslov, leader of the delegation, said that Moscow was ready to resume the work and ensure the early installation of a nuclear reactor, but it was waiting for the ratification of a bilateral cooperation agreement between the two governments.

According to sources close to the commission, the reactivation of the atomic project will cost about $30 million.

Departing FRG Envoy Speaks About Continued Aid

AB171209 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The outgoing West German ambassador to Ghana, Dr Gottfried Fischer, has said that his country will continue to help Ghana in her time of need. Dr Fischer however stressed that the key to Ghana's economic recovery is hard work and sacrifice by every Ghanaian. The German envoy was speaking to newsmen at the airport before leaving Accra on reposting to Indonesia. Dr Fischer had been in Ghana for nearly 4 years. He said he was impressed by the economic policies of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council]. On Ghana-West German relations, Dr Fischer said since Ghana's independence, h's country's economic assistance to Ghana has amounted to nearly DM 900 million. He said there is a further German assistance to Ghana toward a number of projects estimated at about DM 200 million.

He said the West German government and nongovernment organizations have provided assistance to Ghana for the development of the Volta Lake transportation project, construction of clinics and schools being manned by German volunteers. Dr Fischer announced that a book on rural construction has been wirtten by German volunteers working in Ghana for use as a textbook for the country's technical institutions.

MALI

Talks With Upper Volta on Cooperation, Border Problem

AB162030 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The Upper Volta-Mali interministerial meeting ended in Mopti yesterday. The meeting, which was attended by Upper Voltan Interior Minister Ernest Ouedraogo and his Malian counterpart Abdourhamane Maiga, fell within the framework of efforts to strengthen the cooperation between our two countries and to find ways and means to reach a solution to our border dispute at a bilateral level. Here is a report on the deliberations by our special correspondent [name indistinct].

[Begin recording] The deliberations ended with a communique issued by the two sides. With regard to the movement of persons and goods, the two delegations agreed to (?set up a committee) charged with the task of [words indistinct]. The two delegations called on the technical services working at the border to hold more frequent consultations and exchange information [words indistinct].

Concerning the exercise of sovereignty and the attendant problems, the two parties reiterated their determination to make no move likely to jeopardize the good relations between our two countries or frustrate the smooth work of the Hagues Court to which they have referred the matter. Also, they pledged their commitment to persevere in their efforts toward the definitive settlement of that problem on a bilateral basis in accordance with the common desire expressed by the leaders of the two countries, Presidents Moussa Traore and Thomas Sankara.

Examining the miscellaneous issues on the agenda, the two delegations recommended that to promote cooperation between their police services, a meeting between their police officials should be held in order to design a common strategy to combat the increasing acts of banditry along our common border.

On public health, the two delegations recommended a closer cooperation between the health services of the two countries in the two fields of health care for animals and persons.

The closing address was delivered by Upper Voltan Interior Minister Ernest Ouedraogo who indicated that the 2-day deliberations made it possible for the two parties to hold talks aimed at discharging their duties toward their working masses more efficiently in the interest of their two peoples.

Concluding his address, the Upper Voltan minister took the opportunity on behalf of the members of his delegation to thank the Malian party and government, the local authorities, and the inhabitants of Mopti for the African hospitality he and his delegation enjoyed during their visit. [end recording]

Mali-Guinea Joint Cooperation Plans Reported 17 Mar

AB181025 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The deliberations of the Guinea-Mali joint executive committees for sectorial cooperation ended early yesterday afternoon in the conference hall of the Hotel d'Amitie. Present at the ceremony were members of the Central Executive Bureau, the government, and Guinean and Malian experts.

The meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of the cooperation between the two countries. It also made it possible to pinpoint the moves which should be taken to effectively launch joint projects that can be implemented immediately.

Under such projects three sectors are involved: 1) public works, transport, and communication; 2) trade, banking, currency, and public finances; and 3) rural development, water supply, energy, industry, and mining. The experts of the two countries made recommendations aimed at a closer cooperation between our two countries in these sectors.

In this connection, the group of experts in charge of public works, transport, and communications recommended that efforts be continued toward the implementation of our common projects involving road, rail, and sea links. The two delegations recommended the effective establishment of the technical committee presided over civil aviation authorities from both countries. It will see to it that air traffic between the two countries is resumed. In the short run, it should facilitate the joint utilization of air links, personnel, air transport, and maintenance.

In the field of posts and telecommunications, the participants in the Bamako meeting recommended an increase in the volume of mail transport between our two countries by signing an agreement between Air Guinea and Air Mali for the transport of mail by air. They also recommended the improvement of the telephone link between Bamako and Conakry.

They called for special programs to be realized on the occasion of the Malian and Guinean national days, along with an exchange of programs between our radio and television offices at all levels.

Haydala Arrives in Bamako for 1-Day Working Visit

AB191725 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, arrived in Bamako this morning for a 1-day friendly and working visit to Mali. The Mauritanian head of state was greeted at the Bamako Senou International Airport by President Moussa Traore, accompanied by the Mauritanian ambassador to Mali, His Excellency Ould Guig; His Excellency Mamadou Diawara, Mali's ambassador to Mauritania, and Governor Yaya Bagayogo. Members of the Central Executive Bureau, the government and diplomatic corps were also present at Bamako Senou Airport.

Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala stated that his visit to Mali will help examine issues on bilateral cooperation and exchange views on burning issues of our subregion, Africa and the world. Here is President Haydala at the microphone of (Suna Makoto):

[Begin recording] [Haydala] The visit I am paying to the Republic of Mali falls within the framework of the periodic contacts between our governments. As you know, the cooperation and relations between Mali and Mauritania are exemplary, and this is due to the historic and geographic links that have always constituted a catalyst to the solidarity between our two countries. It is therefore quite normal that with my brother President Moussa Traore we should be able to meet and exchange views on our bilateral cooperation and the situation prevailing in our subregion — first of all the drought, the problem of Chad and Western Sahara. We shall also discuss problems of interest to our continent in the light of the recent developments in southern Africa. We will also discuss more burning problems in the Muslim world and the situation in Lebanon, which is very

preoccupying. It is certain that we will also discuss other current issues.

I can tell you that our talks will take place in an atmosphere of mutual trust because Mauritania and Mali have the same approach to current major problems. I must add that the friendship between my brother and friend President Moussa Traore and me is of a special kind, meaning that we meet frequently to exchange views on problems concerning our subregion and continent.

[(Makoto)] Mr President, you mentioned international [word indistinct]. In fact the OAU summit is drawing near [words indistinct], are you optimistic about whether it will take place?

[Haydala] I think that one must always be optimistic. We have always had several crises which we have always been able to surmount. We have a certain number of crises that cannot be allowed to continue such as [words indistinct]. But I sincerely think there is need for serenity, and I am optimistic. [end recording]

The Mauritanian head of state is accompanied by his minister of foreign affairs, Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih and his personal under secretary, [name indistinct]. After private talks at 1000 between the two heads of state, a working meeting was held between members of the two delegations at the Koulouba conference center, in the cabinet hall.

NIGERIA

Egyptian, Libyan Foreign Affairs Officials Arrive

AB192208 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, is expected to deliver a message from the Egyptian leader, Husni Mubarak, to the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari. He was received at the Murtala Muhammad Airport by the minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari. Also today, the Libyan minister of foreign affairs, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, arrived in Lagos for a 1-day official visit. Mr al-'Ubaydi is expected to hold discussions with the minister of external affairs, Dr Gambari.

Buhari Meets With Yugoslav Planning Minister

AB200725 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The provision of raw materials for indigenous industries and the boosting of agriculture are the major areas to be concentrated upon by the Federal Military Government [FMG]. This was stated today at Dodan Barracks by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, while exchanging views with the Yugoslav minister of economic planning, Jon Srbovan.

The head of state said that the Federal Government had deliberately slowed down to take stock of the nation's resources and reconsider its priorities. The Yugoslav minister had earlier pledged the determination of his country to assist Nigeria in bringing back the economy into shape and commended the efforts of the government in this direction. Mr Srbovan said that although the level of trade between Nigeria and Yugoslavia had diminished, there were areas where joint cooperation could boost trade for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Gambari Meets With State Secretary Howe in UK

For NAN reportage on Minister of External Affairs Ibrahim Gambari's visit to the United Kingdom, including his talks with UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Sir Geoffrey Howe during which Howe assured Gambari the British Government has no intention of supporting former Nigerian politicians, as well as their talks on economic and financial issues and recent developments in southern Africa, see the United Kingdom section of the 20 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Papers on Participation at U.S. Seminar, RSA Pact

AB191257 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Press review]

[Excerpt] *THE GUARDIAN* does not support Nigeria's participation in the current seminar on strategy in the United States. The paper points out that there is no way that a Nigerian strategic perception on which aims at consolidating the gains of national independence could coincide with the world sphere of the U.S. Government. *THE GUARDIAN* is, therefore, of the opinion that Nigerian leaders have no business contributing to the work of any conferences organized to promote such perception.

The daily *TIMES* frowns at the non-aggression treaty signed last week between Mozambique and the apartheid regime in South Africa. The paper is of the view that the new development is a sad episode on the entire African Continent and a challenge to the OAU in its struggle to dismantle all forms of racism in Africa. Concluding, the *TIMES* calls on the OAU to take up the challenge and translate into practical terms its often-repeated stand that armed struggle is the only solution to the attainment of Namibia's independence.

Reportage on 15 March Market Fire in Maiduguri

Extent of Damage Unkown

AB161336 Lagos NAN in English 1305 GMT 16 March 84

[Text] Maiduguri, Mar 15 [NAN] — Property conservatively estimated at hundreds of thousands of naira was today destroyed when fire gutted the Maiduguri new market or "Sabon Kasuwa."

A NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA [NAN] correspondent who visited the market reports that some traders were seen making frantic efforts to salvage some of their goods while fire fighters battled to bring the fire under control.

"Sabon Kasuwa" was an offshoot of "Monday Market" also in Maiduguri, destroyed by fire in 1978.

The state commissioner for home affairs and information, Alhaji Mohammed Adam, told NAN that the fire started about 4:00 a.m. and that the cause of the fire and extent of damage was yet to be ascertained. He said that he was still "harnessing reports on the incident to determine the extent of damage and cause of the fire."

The state governor, Maj Gen Abubakar Waziri, has also visited the scene of the incident.

Police Prevent Looting

AB161355 Lagos NAN in English 1340 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Maiduguri, Mar 16 [NAN] — Police and military personnel have been drafted to the burnt Maiduguri market to prevent looting of goods salvaged from the fire. NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA [NAN] correspondents who visited the market today report that security men were seen asking for receipts of goods from traders.

The correspondents also report that houses adjoining the burnt market were also being searched for items likely to have been removed from the market during the fire.

Governor Waziri, who visited the market yesterday, had ordered that security be provided to prevent looting. He also asked the chief fire officer of the state, Alhaji Bura Wakilbe, to find out the immediate and remote causes of the fire.

Meanwhile, four persons have been nabbed by the police for being in possession of goods suspected to be stolen from the scene of the fire incident. The suspects were said to have gone to the scene of the fire incident and removed various goods under the pretext that the goods belonged to them. The four suspects would soon be charged to court, a source at the Bulabulim police station said.

Borno Investigation Begins

AB171144 Lagos NAN in English 1115 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Maiduguri, March 17 [NAN] — The Borno Government is to set up a judicial commission of inquiry to investigate the cause of the fire which gutted the Maiduguri new market on Thursday. It will also determine the extent of loss sustained by traders as a result of the fire.

A statement from the governor's office yesterday said that the governor had directed the State Committee on Essential Commodities to move some quantity of rice to the market for direct sales to members of the public. According to the statement, the governor also directed the state commissioner for local government and social development to expedite action on the completion and opening of the Maiduguri "Monday Market." He also directed the sole administrator for the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council to provide one or two sites as temporary markets for the displaced traders.

The state military governor, Maj Gen Abubadkar Waziri, on Thursday visited the scene of the incident to estimate the extent of damage.

Yola Property Damage Estimated at 10 Million Naira

AB171349 Lagos NAN in English 1258 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Yola, March 17 [NAN] — The military governor of Gongola, Maj Gen Muhammadu Jega, said in Yola yesterday that property damaged during the religious disturbances in Jimeta-Yola had been estimated at 10 million naira.

At the launching of fund-raising ceremony in aid of the victims of the disturbances, Maj Gen Jega said that about 30,000 persons were rendered homeless while out of the about 2,000 houses destroyed, 1,500 were badly damaged. [sentence as received]

Maj Gen Jega also said that the fanatics burned down the Jimeta new market comprising 50 kiosks and stalls and rendered more than 2,000 persons and their families without any means of livelihold, adding that the total cost of the market and the property had been estimated at N5 million.

Gov Jega said that following the distruction of the Jimeta market, life had become really unbearable for the inhabitants of the area since essential commodities like toilet soap were now completely out of stock. He said that during the disturbances about 100,000 people were displaced from their residential and commercial premises.

Maj Gen Jega appealed to the people of the state to cooperate with law enforcement agents by reporting questionable characters in the midst.

Toro Teachers College Closed Following 'Rampage'

AB161043 Lagos NAN in English 1030 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Toro [Bauchi State], Mar 15 [Nan] — The military governor of Bauchi State Brig Sani Sami, has ordered the immediate closure of the Toro teachers' college in the state.

Brig Sami, who gave the order today while addressing members of staff and students of the college, said that the measure was necessary in order to recover the estimated cost of damage incurred by the students who went on a rampage recently.

He said that a levy of 10 naira will have to be paid by each student before they are readmitted into the college, adding that the registration exercise will start on the 30th of this month.

Brig Sami warned that the military administration in the state will not tolerate acts of indiscipline in any of its institutions of learning. "Indisciplined and stupid children will have to be thrown out of school as from now," he said.

He said that he has from today given principals of schools in the state full powers to discipline erring students without referring to the Ministry of Education, "no matter whose child is involved."

The military governor expressed satisfaction with a class of blind students in the college and announced that N5,000 will soon be made available to the principal of the college to purchase brail equipment for the students.

Earlier the principal of the college, Mr A. Ajaere, had urged the governor to provide the institution with essential amenities and learning facilities especially for the blind students.

Plateau Police Prepared To Support Vigilante Groups

AB171132 Lagos NAN in English 0948 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Jos, March 17[NAN] — The Plateau Command today in Jos said that it was prepared to support the formation and operation of viglante groups as a practical step of crime prevention in the state.

In a statement the command said that arrangements between the police and community leaders of the issue had already started adding that recruitment of interested personnel had also begun. It said that existing vigilante groups would not only be recognised by the command but that they would be given "every support and assistance."

The statement then called on members of the public to support the scheme in order to help the police combat crime in the society.

UPPER VOLTA

Egypt's Ghali Meets With Sankara, Comments

AB191120 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali was received in audience this morning by Comrade Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR [National Council of the Revolution] and head of state. According to Butrus Ghali, their talk, which lasted more than 2 hours, dealt with bilateral cooperation between Upper Volta and Egypt and international issues. I now invite you to listen to Butrus Ghali as he answers reporters' questions after his audience with the head of state:

[Begin recording] I had the honor of being received by the Upper Voltan head of state to whom I delivered a written message from the president of the Republic of Egypt. It is a message of friendship and solidarity between the Upper Voltan and Egyptian peoples. We discussed the problem of bilateral cooperation between our two countries. This cooperation centers on the technical field — we have Egyptian technicians who are cooperating with Upper Voltan technicians — the cultural field — it is important that we have increased cultural cooperation — the information field — the head of state is very much interested in information problems. We also discussed certain pressing African issues and noted that we share common views, in particular on the importance of the OAU, our common organization. We must help to maintain it and to make it prosper. We also discussed the major issues that divide our continent, such as the western Saharan, Chadian, and southern African problems. I think the exchange of views we had was very constructive and positive. It is through exchanges of views and dialogue that we can develop new ideas and political imagination that can help us solve these problems. This is so because the major common features of Upper Voltan and Egyptian foreign policy are dialogue and the advocacy of peaceful resolutions to inter-African conflicts, and we agreed that we must do everything to solve these inter-African conflicts peacefully.

[Question by unidentified reporter] Your Excellency, South Africa has just signed accords of peace and good-neighborliness with Angola and Mozambique. What is your country's stand on this issue?

[Ghali] I had the opportunity to discuss this issue with the president of the republic. I think that both our countries are OAU members and that we must abide by resolutions adopted by the organization. We support African countries. We believe that if they decide to launch a dialogue, we must assist them in this dialogue. This said, we maintain our very firm stand and condemn racial discrimination and apartheid. We support liberation movements that are fighting against apartheid. Therefore we share the same stand, within the framework of the OAU. [end recording]

Niger Head of State Arrives in Ouagadougou

AB192055 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state of Niger and current chairman of the ICDCS [Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel], arrived this morning in Ouagadougou for a 48-hour working visit. The Niger president was welcomed on arrival by Comrade Thomas Sankara, the chairman of the National Revolutionary Council and head of state, members of the revolutionary government, the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations. Speaking to Mahamoudou Ouedraogo from Volta-Vision, the Niger president defines the framework of his visit:

[Begin recording] We have come to Ouagadougou for two reasons. First, because your country and particularly your capital is the site of the headquarters of the ICDCS. At the last Niamey summit it happened that the heads of state charged me with the mandate of the chairmanship of this institution. I must therefore start from the beginning, that is, visit this institution, acquaint myself with its staff, its organization, and, of course, the difficulties that might be facing it so that together with its officials we can give a new impetus to this institution. All ICDCS member-countries are confronted with various problems. The drought is getting more severe instead of cooling off. In short, we must try to implement the resolutions passed at our heads of state summits.

The second reason is that whatever the nature of our trip, it is always an opportunity to meet with our Upper Voltan brothers with whom, as you know, we have many ties, and it is always another opportunity to exchange our views beyond the scope of

bilateral relations in order to review some aspects of certain issues that affect our continent or go beyond it. This is my reason for being in Ouagadougou.

[Ouedraogo] Your Excellency, the situation now seems to be disturbing for ICDCS member countries because of the drought. As the current chairman of the ICDCS, do you have any reasons for hope?

[Kountche] There are reasons for hope. First of all, our peoples. We must have faith in their dynamism and in their will to survive in spite of obstacles. This is quite an important aspect of this struggle we are engaged in against the [words indistinct].

Our peoples have always given the proof and set the tempo: If they had the means, the technical and financial means, they would be capable of providing for their own needs in matters of food, including the food needs of their livestock. We hope that the appeal made in Niamey will be heeded by the international community, because our peoples would like to get out of this beggar situation so that through their own efforts they can tap the resources of our own countries, so that they can enjoy the fullness of their dignity by providing for their own food needs [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The Niger head of state will hold private talks with his Upper Voltan counterpart and working sessions at the ICDCS executive headquarters. President Seyni Kountche will also hold talks with the Niger community in Ouagadougou before leaving our capital tomorrow.

It will be recalled that the last ICDCS summit held in Niamey insisted on the strengthening of ties between member-states of the organization in order effectively to fight the drought and its effects on our peoples. For this reason, there is an urgent need to attain food self-sufficiency because the plague, which is destroying the environment and harvests, is raging with its attendant cry of hunger from millions of persons.

ANGOLA

'Audacity' of RSA's Namibia Proposals Blasted

MB191549 Luanda ANGOP in French 1140 GMT 19 Mar 84

[ANGOP commentary: "The Irreverence of Pretoria"]

[Text] Luanda, 19 Mar (ANGOP) — Pretentiously presenting themselves as southern Africa's guardians of peace, the authorities of Pretoria want to impress upon the international community that they are the party most interested in creating a climate of peace in this region of Africa.

The South African minister of foreign affairs thus declared that his government was ready to participate in a conference with all the parties involved in the Namibian conflict, without any preconditions other than the attainment of peace. He would even permit the inclusion of representatives from the Government of the People's Republic of Angola in the conference.

Pretoria's cynicism goes beyond the most attentive observer's predictions. Roelof Botha's declarations, far from contributing to the establishment of the Lusaka accords, create a thick cloud which may obfuscate the peace proposals put forward by the occupants of Namibia.

Roelof Botha's audacity is undeniably aimed at creating confusion. The Government of the People's Republic of Angola has always made it clear that South Africa and SWAPO are the parties involved in the Namibian conflict. It is up to them to study methods for the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435. Up to the present moment, the clarity of the decisions taken by the highest international organizations are unquestionable or, at least, irrevocable.

Nevertheless, Angola's supposed participation in this conference clearly contradicts these Angolan intentions.

The creation of a joint military commission between Angola and South Africa, with a view to securing the withdrawal of South African troops from the Angolan territory is not an integral element of that resolution, despite its contribution to Resolution 435.

It is necessary to separate the good grain [words indistinct]. The South African racists sat down for talks with the Angolan authorities after realizing that their military designs were doomed to failure, given the Angolan people's determination to defend their fatherland.

The process of gaining Namibia's independence has always been hampered by South Africa through various maneuvers. In convening a conference on Namibia, with the participation of foreign forces, Pretoria has introduced yet another element to divert attention from the plan which will lead the Namibian people to their liberty and independence.

In a declaration made public on 12 March, the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Affairs coherently states that a conference can only take place under the auspices of the UN secretary general and within the framework of the study and implementation of methods for the application of Resolution 435/78 of the UN Security Council.

South Africa has again, more than ever before, a splendid opportunity to demonstrate at least once and with practical actions what it proclaims worldwide, namely: to contribute to the peaceful solution of the Namibian problem.

Actions speak louder than words. The international community, and the peoples of southern Africa in particular, want to live in a climate of peace and harmony.

Conferences and meetings on the Namibia question will not contribute to a solution to this question on their own, as was proven by the Geneva conference held in January 1981, whose outcome was a failure for which Pretoria must bear full responsibility.

It is important to remember the words of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, stating that we — the Angolan people — think that it is necessary for South Africa to define whether there will be a cease-fire accord in Namibia and whether that territory's free elections will take place based on an electoral system. Only in this way will all political parties in Namibia have a chance to peacefully solve their independence problem, under the supervision of the United Nations.

Algerian Envoy Brings Dos Santos Bendjedid Message

MB191940 Luanda ANGOP in French 1230 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Luanda 19 Mar (ANGOP) — Juliao Mateus Paulo, Angolan minister of state security, received in Luanda last Saturday Djelloul Nemiche, Algerian minister of veterans affairs, who carried a message from Chadli Bendjedid, the Algerian head of state, to Jose Eduardo dos Santos, his Angolan counterpart.

During his visit to the People's Republic of Angola, the special envoy of the Algerian head of state will hold talks with different Angolan authorities on issues relating to the situation prevailing in southern Africa.

Health Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR

MB162246 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] A cooperation agreement in the field of health was signed in Luanda yesterday between the People's Republic of Angola and the USSR. Ferreira Neto, Angolan health minister, and Sergey Burenkov, Soviet health minister, signed the agreement.

On the occasion, Dr Ferreira Neto said that the agreement just signed will clearly show the new efforts made by the Angolan authorities in the field of health and will permit the strengthening of the cooperation already existing between the peoples, parties, and governments of the respective countries. The Angolan health minister said he was quite sure that with Soviet support, Angola would be able more and more to achieve its goals. In turn, Sergey

Burenkov, Soviet health minister, stressed the excellent ties of friendship between Angola and the USSR and said this agreement is the result of the fraternal relations existing between the peoples, parties, and governments of the two countries.

Meanwhile, yesterday afternoon the USSR health minister gave a press conference in Luanda to the national media. Sergey Burenkov began by saying that his visit to our country gave him the opportunity to improve his knowledge of the different aspects of Angola's health system, of which he had received a good impression. The Soviet official recalled during the press conference the agreements signed between Angola and the USSR in 1976 in the technical, economic, and scientific fields, and in 1982 in the science and culture fields, which, he said, play a predominant role in the development of cooperation between the two countries. Sergey Burenkov, who has been in Angola at the invitation of his Angolan counterpart, is scheduled to end his visit to the People's Republic of Angola today.

Soviet Health Minister Departs

MB191930 Luanda ANGOP in French 1340 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Luanda, 19 Mar (ANGOP) — Mr Sergey Burenkov, the Soviet minister of health, left Luanda last Friday for home.

On his departure from Luanda's 4 February International Airport, the Soviet minister was bid farewell by his Angolan counterpart Ferreira Neto, as well as by Mr Arnold Kalinin, the USSR ambassador accredited to Angola.

It should be recalled that last Thursday Mr Sergey Burenkov signed an accord of cooperation in the field of health with his Angolan counterpart in Luanda, within the framework of strengthening the already existing relations between both peoples, parties, and governments.

Also on Thursday, during a press conference he stressed that cooperation between his country and Angola in the field of health will bring about more dynamic development in the future.

UNITA Spokesman Says MPLA Against Reconciliation

MB200745 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] A spokesman for the UNITA resistance movement in Angola, Mr (Wilson Fernandes), says the Angolan Government is trying to create the impression that it can impose a military solution on the Angolan civil war. This is to counter the American view that national reconciliation in Angola is necessary to bring peace to the region. Mr (Fernandes) said the superpowers believed that without UNITA, the overall question of southern Africa could not be resolved.

Mr (Fernandes) said in an interview with Radio RSA that the Cubans were in Angola not because of South Africa — which was withdrawing its forces from southern Angola — but because of the internal threat that UNITA posed to the MPLA government. He said the visit by President Eduardo dos Santos of Angola to Cuba was aimed at strengthening existing relations between the two countries, and consolidating its position in the event of negotiations with UNITA.

Dos Santos Signs Joint Communique With Cuba

For Havana reportage on the visit to Cuba by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and his delegation, their activities, talks with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and the text of a joint communique detailing conditions for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, see the Cuba section of the 20 March Latin America *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Jorge Visits Romania for Cooperation Conference

For Romanian accounts of the visit of Minister of External Affairs Paulo Teixeira Jorge to Romania for the fourth session of the Joint Romanian-Angolan Intergovernmental Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation, see the Romania section of the 15 March Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

COMOROS

'High-Ranking' Government Officials Arrested

NC192108 Paris AFP in English 1934 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Paris, March 19 (AFP) — Several opponents of the Comoros Government have been arrested on the islands, the International Legal Defence Committee for Political Prisoners in the Comoros said here today.

Five people, including high-ranking officials, have been held in the capital, Moroni, since last Thursday, according to a statement from the Union for a Democratic Republic in the Comoros, the exiled opposition party.

The Comoros, situated between the east African coast and Madagascar, are currently negotiating with France over the status of Mayotte, one of the four main islands. The Comoran Government wants to integrate the French-administered island into the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros.

Former Comoran Foreign Minister Mouzaouir Abdallah told Agence France-Presse in an interview that he feared the arrests could harm plans for the reintegration of Mayotte.

The French Government is to consult the people of Mayotte about their future during this year. The majority of islanders have already rejected rejoining the other islands in 1978 and have called for full overseas department status.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Explains Accord With RSA at Maputo Rally

MB180919 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1413 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Speech by President Samora Machel at Xipamanine Stadium in Maputo at a rally organized to support the Nkomati Accord with South Africa — live]

[Text] Long live Frelimo, which unites and organizes the people. [crowd: Long live; slogan repeated twice] You are not shouting enough. Long live the Mozambique people, united from the Rovuma to the Maputo Rivers. [crowd: Long live; slogan repeated twice] Long live Frelimo, which unites and organizes the people. [crowd: Long live; slogan repeated once] Long live the People's Republic of Mozambique. [crowd: Long live; slogan repeated twice] Long live national independence.[crowd: Long live; slogan repeated three times] The struggle continues. [crowd: Continues; slogan repeated once] Independence or death. [crowd: We shall win; slogan repeated three times] Thank you, friends. [applause] Long live Maputo residents. [crowd: Long live] Long live the Xipamanine ward. [crowd: Long live; slogan repeated once] Thank you, friends. What do you want me to say? What do you want me to say? What? [crowd: Everything] What? [crowd: Everything] What? [crowd: Everything] I do not hear your voices at all. What? [crowd: Everything] Everything, what? [crowd: Everything] The struggle continues. [crowd: Continues] Stay quiet.

I am going to explain things to you very quickly, very quickly because the messages we heard here have expressed exactly the deep sentiment of the Mozambique people who are organized, united, and led by Frelimo from the Rovuma to the Maputo Rivers. We are not just speaking to Maputo residents, but we also want to thank the residents of the suburbs who organized this meeting. That is why we came here. We came here to hear your messages. We also came to tell you what we did yesterday. Correct? [crowd: Correct; question repeated four times]. Thank you, friends. [applause] I call on the band to sing 'Khanimambo, Frelimo.' [song: Thank you, Frelimo; band begins and crowd sings]

We founded Frelimo in 1962. Correct? [crowd: Correct]. For what purpose? [laughter from the crowd] We founded Frelimo, the Mozambique Liberation Front, for what purpose? What? [crowd: To defend the fatherland] We founded Frelimo to unite the Mozambique people. We created Frelimo as our instrument of struggle. We founded Frelimo so that we could win the inalienable right of peoples, independence. We created Frelimo as a valid instrument to negotiate the independence of Mozambique with the colonial power that was Portugal. We created Frelimo with the objective of winning independence peacefully. Listen to this properly. It has always been the objective of the Mozambique people to preserve peace. Where there is no independence, there is no peace. So therefore we created Frelimo to achieve our fundamental objective, the most profound expression of our people, the most precious treasure of mankind: freedom, independence, and peace.

The colonial power refused to engage in a dialogue with us. As a result, we resorted to the path of the armed struggle, of violence, revolutionary violence. We followed the path of armed struggle against colonialism and against domination to win independence, to win freedom, to assert our dignity, and to preserve our personality so that we could value our culture. The colonial power did not understand the aspiration of the Mozambique people. Then, on 25 September 1964, we took up arms. Do you understand, friends? We are still pursuing the struggle began on 25 September 1964 to win peace.

If the colonial power had accepted dialogue, we would not have had to shed blood in this country in order to win independence. Do you understand, friends? It would have been a peaceful independence through negotiations. For 10 years, the Mozambique people waged war, willingly made sacrifices, and gave their own lives to win independence. Do you understand? All that was to win independence.

In 1974, we negotiated. This negotiation with South Africa was not the first time that we negotiated. In 1974, we negotiated peace and independence with the colonial power, and we signed the Lusaka accords, which established the principle of self-determination and independence and fixed the date for the independence of Mozambique. These accords marked the end of the colonial war. It was the end of the war of imperialist aggression against our people. Do you understand? On 25 June 1975, we proclaimed the People's Republic of Mozambique. We proclaimed your power. We put you in power. This independence brought about the transformation of the region. It brought about radical transformation.

It introduced a new way of life. It brought about a new society. It brought about a new civilization. Our independence brought about the fundamental principle that men, regardless of the color of their skin and regardless of which continent they live on, are all equal. This is it. This is why they are attacking us. Do you understand? [crowd: We understand] This is the fundamental principle. This is the essence of our civilization. Men of various skin colors, of various continents, are all equal. By achieving independence, we brought about equality among men. We brought about fraternity. we brought about the term: friendship among peoples. We implanted in southern Africa what is called solidarity, fraternity, friendship, and peace.

Violence has existed since the time colonialism penetrated Africa. There has been violence. There has never been peace on this continent. Colonialism still exists. There are still nonindependent states. There is violence there. Colonialism is not a synonym of freedom. These are two diametrically opposite things. Fascism and Nazism are not the same thing as democracy. Do you understand, friends? When we proclaimed independence, we began to exist as a state. We are now a state. We are a sovereign state. As a state, we have some rights which must be observed as appropriate for a state. They must be observed as proper for a state. Do not confuse state with party. The state protects all citizens regardless of their ideology. Muslims, Catholics, Protestants, and animists are all citizens of the People's Republic of Mozambique, above anything else. It is not the party which defines a Mozambique citizen. That is the task of the Mozambique state.

I would like you to understand this properly. Now we must defend the state. We must defend this state. The state must be defended by all the citizens. The flag, the flag of the Republic, protects all of you. The other flag, the party flag, protects only party members. [applause] The party flag protects all revolutionaries and all Frelimo party members. The flag of the Republic protects all revolutionaries, and all party members. It also protects outlaws. [laughter and applause] Do you understand? It also protects thieves. It also protects exploiters. It also protects smugglers. [laughter and applause] In a nutshell, the flag of the Republic protects all antisocial people. It protects both good and bad people. That is what that flag does. If a Mozambican is arrested in Tanzania, we are not going to ask whether he is a party member. What we are going to ask is: Is he a citizen of Mozambique? If he is, that is the end of the matter. He must be protected. If a Mozambican is arrested in England, if a Mozambican is arrested in Germany, if a Mozambican is arrested in France, if a Mozambican is arrested in any part of the world, like South Africa, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, what we will have to confirm is whether the person is really a Mozambican. Once that is established, then we protect him with the flag of the Republic. Do you understand? The party flag only protects the people around me. [laughter]

Now friends, the struggle continues. [crowd: Continues] The state must be defended. We must defend our sovereignty. We must defend it. We must defend our territorial integrity. We must defend our independence. Listen to this properly. This is the meaning of the pact: It is to defend our independence. It is to defend our state and our sovereignty. It is to defend our territorial integrity. With it, we are finally defending every Mozambique national. There is something else. The pact defends the revolution. It defends our social transformation. It defends our economic transformation. It defends scientific and technical transformation.

We did not sign an accord with the South African party. We did not sign an accord of political and ideological coexistence. Do you understand? [crowd shouts: We understand] We did not sign the accord with any party in South Africa. We went to sign an agreement with the South African state — with the Republic of South Africa and with the South African Government which exists. Do you understand? [crowd shouts: We understand] The South Africans did not sign the agreement with the Frelimo Party. No. They signed one with the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique, with that flag there. Do you understand? It was with that flag there and not with the other one over there.

What does this accord defend? It defends a series of rules, a series of universal principles which are internationally accepted. When we speak of the external policy of the People's Republic of Mozambique, the first thing we are speaking about is relations with all countries and states, regardless of their social, economic and political systems. Irregardless of that, it is relations between states.

Do you understand? That is why when we visit some countries we say that we are making a state and friendly visit. Our parties also have agreements. Do you understand? Do you understand? Perhaps this is a difficult subject. I do not know how to explain it. I do not know how I am going to explain it to you. Let me continue. Can I continue? Can I continue? [crowd shouts: Yes]. Respect this agreement. Respect the border. Do you understand, my friends? There must be no aggression. South Africa must not attack Mozambique. Mozambique is not to attack South Africa.

You also have rules to comply with. Do you understand, friends? Yes, you are not going to attack South Africa. [laughter] You must not hunt in South Africa. Do you understand? You are to respect the border. The buffaloes and the elephants with their ivory on the other side belong to South Africa; they are not yours. [laughter followed by applause] You must also not plow the land on the other side. I do not know whether you are listening. Ah, you say, because the land on the other side is beautiful, I am going to plant peanuts and sweet potatoes. No! You must not cross; it is no longer your side. You will be violating the rules now. You will be violating the accord. [laughter] To plant on the other side is a violation of the accord, do you hear? You say: On this side of the border there is no grass, so I am going to take my cattle to graze on the other side. You will be violating the border. You are from Maputo, so you are not actually understanding what I am saying. If I were speaking in Ressano Garcia, people there would understand me clearly, as well as those from Moamba, Magude, Namaacha, Machatuine, Catuane, and Chiqualaguala.

This is not just with regard to South Africa. You must also not violate the border of Zimbabwe. It is not only with Zimbabwe. It is also with Malawi. Those who are in Milanje must not go to plant crops in Malawi. You will be violating the international rules. You must not cross the border and plant crops in Tanzania. You must not cross the border with Zambia and Swaziland. Your territory is this one here. Do you understand? This is the first thing to observe. It looks like a very small thing. The Army must avoid doing this at all costs. What would the Mozambique Army be doing by crossing the border with South Africa? What would the South African Army be doing by crossing over here? This is what we call good neighborliness. If you want to cross the border, you must have documents. There are places to cross the border. There are crossing points. There are proper places. Do you understand, friends? I know you are quiet because you steal prawns and sell them over there. [laughter] You steal nuts and sell them there. That is all you have. If you had gold, you would also steal it and take it over there. There are some prawn smugglers here. They are violating the rules of the accord. Therefore, the border must be respected. Nonaggression. Airplanes and warships from Mozambique to South Africa? No. From South Africa to Mozambique? No. From there to here? No. Nonaggression.

You know that the bandits live in South Africa. Is it not true? Do you know it or do you not? [crowd: We do] They come from there to kill you. So, this accord forbids this as well. South Africa has assumed this responsibility: not to train armed bandits. Do you understand it properly?

We went to the border to sign the accord. The accord will block the source of the armed bandits' water. Is this not true? It also means that only the bandits' water here will be intact, and it will evaporate. [applause] Do not worry any more. Do you understand? If the tap is closer, only the water already in the pipe can be used. Do you understand? When that water is finished [pas-

sage in shagaan, followed by laughter and applause], there is no shade, river or lagoon. Do you understand, friends?

This accord is an instrument of struggle for peace, equality, mutual respect, justice, and democracy. This accord is the result of a long process. A struggle has various aspects and fronts: political, ideological, diplomatic, and finally the armed military struggle. The most fundamental is politics and diplomacy — the ideological struggle.

In 1982, the Frelimo Central Committee analyzed the internal situation. In August 1982, the Central Committee analyzed the economic, political, military, international, and diplomatic situation. We realized that the bandits were destroying our economy. That is why you do not have combs, razor blades, soap, and clothes, because the bandits have destroyed our economy. They destroy saw mills, bridges, dams, and locomotives. They kidnap children. They commit murder. They kidnap, rape, and murder women. They chop off the ears of our beautiful women, and the lips of our daughters. They kidnap expatriates who work in the People's Republic of Mozambique for our economic development and take part in our struggle against underdevelopment.

These four fronts have their own policy, strategy and tactics. So the Central Committee defined three important fronts: The first was the military front for the liquidation of the armed bandits. That was in August 1982. The second was a political and diplomatic offensive at the international level in order to break the siege we were under. The third was the economic front. The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique studied ways to implement these three policy directions. The Council of Ministers decided to transform our economy into a war economy.

We then explained to the world that the Mozambique people are victims of aggression. It is an undeclared war. Do you understand, friends? That is why we traveled to Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal, France, and Britain, and visited EEC Headquarters. We explained to them about the war that is being waged against the People's Republic of Mozambique through the armed bandits, and that there is no political opposition in Mozambique. Those who operate in Mozambique are not soldiers, but are rather murderers, drug addicts, and criminals. We told them that South Africa was the destabilizing agent in the region, particularly against the People's Republic of Mozambique. Therefore, there is a military front here of which you know about. The result of the operations that we have launched from late 1982 until now has been that by October 1983 we had already captured 3,500 bandits. All of them confessed that they were trained, equipped, and supplied by South Africa. When wounded they are treated in South Africa.

I asked for armed bandits to be brought here. I do not know whether they have brought them. For you to present them today would be beautiful. Did you bring them? They are afraid. The [words indistinct] are scared of you. They feel pity for bandits. They have armed bandits. They feed them. When they are sick, they look after the armed bandits. They give them blankets, but for you there is nothing. Do you understand? Now, we ask the world what shall we do with the 3,500 armed bandits? Shall we kill them or not? [crowd: kill] No, we are asking the world. So, this accord also protects the armed bandits. [as heard] Don't you see that? There are 3,500 armed bandits. Thousands more have been killed or wounded.

You see, if we were to equip all these people here to go to the forest, then the armed bandits would be in trouble. Is that not true? That was what we told the West: Our people are only asking for weapons because in Mozambique there is no opposition. Frelimo led the war of liberation and negotiated with Portugal. There was no other movement. Therefore, Frelimo is the indisputable leader in the People's Republic of Mozambique. [applause] We are what we are — solidly united from the Rovuma River to the Maputo River — because of Frelimo. It is true, is it not? [crowd: Yes]

Where do the armed bandits come from?

Therefore the peace, nonaggression, and good neighborliness accord is designed for us to concentrate all our energy on the economic development of our country. It is the instrument for the economic development of our country in time of peace. Do you understand? In peace, tranquillity, and quiet.

We have always wanted peace ever since the formation of Frelimo. In this region, the People's Republic of Mozambique is the torchbearer of peace. Peace has always been our objective. When we support the just struggle of the oppressed peoples, it is for the sake of peace. Therefore, I want to appeal to all Mozambicans. Our priority task and main mission at this moment is to finish off the armed bandits. [applause] Greater vigilance is required because we have signed the accord. It is not an ideological accord. We are different. South Africa has its political and economic system, which is different from ours. They are antagonistic systems. Do you understand? We are for socialism. We are against capitalism. Do you understand? Therefore, it is not a question of coexistence of systems, ideologically speaking.

Economic cooperation with South Africa: These ports and railroads of yours have been built to serve South Africa. You know that. Do you understand? There are many Mozambicans who work in South African mines, factories, and the rest of the industrial sector. However, they must follow the rule, not to violate the border. One must follow the rules.

Marcelino dos Santos, is there anything else you would like me to say? Is there anything lacking, friends? What? [laughter] Speak up! What? [applause]

This was done in Portuguese and English. [Machel is presumably referring to the Nkomatic Accord document; Maputo in English to Southern Africa at 1100 GMT on 18 March says that Machel showed the agreement to the crowd during the rally] [applause] It is therefore the responsibility of the Mozambique people as a whole, from the Rovuma River to the Maputo River. Good neighborliness, peace, progress, and stability in the region. [applause]

The struggle continues. [crowd: Continues] Long live the Mozambique people, united from the Rovuma River to the Maputo River. [crowd: Long live] Long live Frelimo, which unites and organizes the people. [crowd: Long live] Long live the People's Republic of Mozambique [crowd:Long live] Long

live national unity. [crowd: Long live] Long live national independence. [crowd: Long live] Long live friendship and fraternity among peoples. [crowd: Long live] Long live friendship and solidarity among peoples. [crowd: Long live]

Independence or death. [crowd: We shall win] The struggle continues. [crowd: Continues] [Machel sings 'Kanibambo Frelimo' with the crowd] Goodbye, friends. [crowd: Goodbye] Thank you, friends.

Frelimo's Dos Santos Reaffirms Recognition of ANC

MB191646 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Marcelino dos Santos, a member of the Frelimo Political Bureau, reaffirmed that Mozambique recognises the ANC as a free expression of the South African people who desire to live in peace and progress.

We have never negotiated over the ANC, said Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Frelimo Party and of the Mozambique Government, in an interview granted to the Netherlands newspaper *FREE PEOPLE*. He said that Mozambique was not compelled to negotiate because of its difficulties. Our objective, he added, has always been to gain peace. We are advancing on all fronts and we will never surrender.

Economics Affairs Minister Receives French Senators

MB161707 Maputo Domestic service in Portuguese
0800 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Jacinto Veloso, member of the Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly and minister in the Presidency for economic affairs, received in Maputo yesterday a delegation of French senators who are visiting our country.

In the meeting, issues related to international policy and economic relations between the two countries were discussed.

Pemba Residents Welcome Signing of Nkomati Accord

MB191015 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0430 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] About 3,000 Pemba inhabitants, waving placards in support of the Nkomati treaty, yesterday morning hailed President Samora Machel for signing the nonaggression and good-neighborliness pact between Mozambique and South Africa. The 3,000 people came to the Pemba airport to hail the provincial governor, Lieutenant General Alberto Chipande, and the Cabo Delgado delegation, which had attended the signing ceremony for the Nkomati treaty on the common border between Mozambique and South Africa.

In a message read on the occasion by a member of the provincial committee, the population of Cabo Delgado hailed Machel for the correct application of the socialist policy of peace defined by the Frelimo Party. The message also said the population had followed closely this current event and was ready to execute commands issued last Saturday by President Samora Machel when he was presiding over a mass rally at Xipamanine.

Soviet Delegation Continues Economic Ties Meetings

Visits Zambezia Province

MB160630 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1700 GMT 14 Mar 84

[Text] After a working visit to Zambezia Province, the visiting Soviet delegation headed by Petr Koshelev, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, returned to Maputo yesterday. The Soviet delegation was received in Quelimane by Mario Machungo, member of the Political Bureau and leader of Zambezia Province, and held talks with officials of local production units.

Last Friday the Soviet delegation began talks in Maputo with a Mozambique delegation with a view to increasing economic, trade, and technical cooperation in preparation for the third session of the Mozambique-Soviet Commission, due to take place this year.

Cooperation Accord Signed

MB162023 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Mozambique and the Soviet Union signed in Maputo today a cooperation accord at the end of talks which began last week in the framework of the two nations' joint commission. The accord strengthens present relations of cooperation and establishes new areas of cooperation. The various areas covered by the accord include the fishing sector. The accord was signed by Tenreiro de Almeida, secretary of state for fisheries, and by Petr Koshelev, deputy chairman of Soviet Union's State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

Luanda Site for Lusophone Countries Summit in April

MB191800 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0800 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] An extraordinary summit of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries will be held in Luanda in the begining of April. According to Joao Bernardo Vieira, the Guinea-Bissau president, the summit will analyze the situation in southern Africa. President Joao Bernardo Vieira added that the Portuguese-speaking African countries are going to the summit to express their support for Angola and Mozambique.

NAMIBIA

Nujoma Says Toivo Role To Be Decided After 'Rest'

Johannesburg SAPA in English 1455 GMT
19 Mar 84

[Text] Windhoek, March 19, SAPA — SWAPO founder member, Mr Herman Toivo ja Toivo, would return to SWA/Namibia

within days, the leader of SWAPO, Mr Sam Nujoma, said today. Speaking in a telephone interview from Lusaka with SAPA in Windhoek, Mr Nujoma said Mr ja Toivo had been received at a SWAPO rally in the Zambian capital soon after his release from jail "as a hero of Namibia."

Mr ja Toivo, as a member of the Central Committee and the Politburo of SWAPO, was in "the higher hierarchy of our party," but his future role in the SWA/Namibian struggle would have to be decided by SWAPO's executive. "It is not for me to decide .....But you must remember that Ja Toivo has just come out of jail and he needs a rest," Mr Nujoma said.

Mr ja Toivo, who was SWAPO's regional secretary in northern SWA/Namibia before he was jailed in South Africa, is at present visiting Mr Nujoma in Lusaka. Mr Nujoma said there was no truth in speculation that Mr ja Toivo's release would cause a power struggle in SWAPO. "There is no conflict. Our leadership is solid, and we welcome him with open arms," Mr Nujoma said.

There was also no difference in views between SWAPO's leadership outside SWA/Namibia and that inside the country, Mr Nujoma said. "Whatever SWAPO's leaders in Windhoek said is correct," Mr Nujoma added.

He said he and Mr ja Toivo had had fruitful discussions with the president of Tanzania and chairman of the frontline states, Mr Julius Nyerere, in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. "Toivo was overjoyed to meet Mr Nyerere for the first time," Mr Nujoma said.

President Nyerere was briefed on the military and political situation concerning SWA/Namibia. Asked if he had any plans to travel in the immediate future, Mr Nujoma said he expected to visit Zimbabwe and Botswana "within a few days." Mr ja Toivo was issued with a 30-day South African travel document valid for Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia earlier this month.

Mr Nujoma said of Mr ja Toivo: "He is a great son of the struggle and a hero of the Namibian people. He will be in Namibia within a few days."

Nujoma Calls Discussions With Nyerere 'Fruitful'

MB191745 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1624 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Windhoek, March 19, SAPA — The SWAPO leader, Mr Sam Nujoma, accompanied by the recently released SWAPO founder member, Mr ja Toivo, said the purpose of his weekend visit to Tanzania was to brief President Nyerere on the latest "diplomatic and military activities" inside SWA/Namibia. Speaking from Lusaka, Mr Nujoma told SAPA that the trip was part of an itinerary by SWAPO officials to brief frontline states on current negotiations on SWA/Namibia.

President Nyerere is the chairman of the group of frontline states comprising Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Malawi.

"We had very frank and fruitful discussions," Mr Nujoma said. He announced that SWAPO officials would visit Zimbabwe and Botswana later this week.

Nujoma Appeals for RSA-SWAPO Talks in Interview

MB191412 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1407 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Windhoek, March 19, SAPA — SWAPO's president, Mr Sam Nujoma, has appealed to the South African Government to engage in urgent talks with SWAPO to bring about peace and resolve the SWA/Namibian dispute. Unless there was negotiation "can there be peace?" he asked. "SWAPO is urging the Botha regime (the SA Government) to talk to SWAPO and resolve the problem."

In an inclusive interview with SAPA in Windhoek, initiated through a SWAPO representative in Lusaka, Mr Nujoma said in the telephone interview that there was a need to "create a climate of peace" in preparation for national unity in SWA/Namibia. "We want a peaceful Namibia in which blacks and whites will consider themselves as one nation," he said. "We all need each other in Namibia and must be united. There will be room for all in a free Namibia under SWAPO. We do not want racial conflict as in South Africa."

Mr Nujoma dismissed as untrue, reports that SWAPO was divided over the SWA/Namibian issue, or that the organisation would enlist outside help to assist it in the military struggle. "The armed struggle is the sole responsibility of the Namibian people under SWAPO," he said. Nobody could be singled out in the fight for SWA/Namibia's independence. "It is our own struggle. We have no intention of recruiting foreigners as South Africa is doing," Mr Nujoma said.

Asked whether local news reports were true that faction fighting had erupted in Angola among members of SWAPO's military wing, Mr Nujoma said: "It is enemy propaganda. SWAPO is as united as ever." The organisation's collective leadership provided "enough room for all in SWAPO." Mr Nujoma said SWAPO remained committed to direct talks with South Africa on SWA/Namibia, but he dismissed the multi-party conference on the future of the territory as "a creation of the Botha regime" and an effort to revive the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance. In "a colonial situation" there had to be talks between "the colonial power....and the party that is fighting for Namibian independence, SWAPO. We have nothing to do with the multi-party conference," which had no power in SWA/Namibia, he said. "We can only talk to South Africa, who is the colonial power in Namibia."

Mr Nujoma said the dissident leader of the break-away SWAPO Democrats, Mr Andreas Shipanga, and the leader of the SWA National Union, Mr Moses Katjiuongua — both represented inthe last party conference — had betrayed the cause of SWA/Namibia.

In a democratic exercise, parties had the right to disagree, but SWAPO did not consider the multi-party conference a threat,

because "SWAPO is for the people of Namibia," Mr Nujoma said.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Declines Comment on Nujoma Appeal for Talks

MB191602 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1555 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Cape Town, March 19, SAPA — The foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, today declined to comment on an appeal by the SWAPO leader, Mr Sam Nujoma, for urgent, direct talks between SWAPO and the South African Government on the SWA/Namibia dispute. Mr Botha was asked to comment on statements made by Mr Nujoma in Lusaka in an exclusive telephone interview with SAPA in Windhoek. "I do not consider it advantageous for the initiatives launched by the South African and Angolan Governments to promote peace in the border area continually to react to the public pronouncements of individual leaders of South West Africa," Mr Botha said.

Government To Study Cuban-Angolan Communique

MB200717 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] It is reported from the Cuban capital, Havana, that Cuba has agreed to the gradual withdrawal of its troops from Angola, subject to certain conditions. In a joint communique issued after 3 days of talks in Havana, President Fidel Castro and President Jose dos Santos of Angola said the conditions were the unilateral withdrawal of South African soldiers from Angolan territory; acceptance of the UN ruling calling for true independence for South-West Africa and a withdrawal of South African forces from the territory; and an end to what they term all acts of aggression against Angola by South Africa, the United States, and it allies, as well as an end to aid for so-called counterrevolutionaries. The joint communique says that the Governments of Cuba and Angola would restart — on their own decision, and exercising their sovereignty — the gradual withdrawal of troops as soon as the conditions were met. In a brief official note in which the Accord of Nkomati between South Africa and Mozambique was welcomed, Cuba and Angola also said that they hoped the accord could serve as a basis for peace in southern Africa.

Over the past few days Western diplomats have speculated on the possibility that Angola would ask Cuba to withdraw its troops as part of a peace plan for the region which could pave the way for independence for South-West Africa. They said that while most of the conditions for a troops withdrawal appeared to be the same as in the past, the timing of the declaration was crucial. It showed that the Cubans were definitely prepared to go along with recent peace moves in southern Africa. Political observers pointed out that apart from the accord with Mozambique, South Africa has also reached a cease-fire agreement with Angola.

In Cape Town, a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said the government would study the statement from Havana before commenting.

U.S., UK No Longer To See Reports on Soviet Ships

MB191328 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] A Defense Force spokesman has confirmed in Cape Town that South Africa is to stop supplying the United States and Britain with intelligence reports on the movements of Soviet warships round the Cape by the end of the year. A spokesman for the South African Embassy in Washington told a conference on defense strategy at the weekend that long-range patrols by South African Air Force Shackletons would not be continued after the end of the year. He said the arms embargo made it impossible to keep the aging Shackletons flying, as spares were too difficult to obtain. The spokesman told the conference that the Shackleton patrols were vital to the West, adding, however, that the abandonment of the patrols would not affect South Africa as the country could obtain information for the defense of its territorial waters by other means. South Africa supplies the United States and Britian with up-to-date information not only about every Soviet naval or merchant vessel that rounds the Cape, but also on Soviet naval activity in Angolan and east African waters.

Government Announces Resettlement Plans in Natal

MB201046 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] The government has announced new plans to resettle thousands of people in Natal. Carmel Rickard in Durban has the details:

[Rickard] The future of three groups of people in Natal was spelled out last night by the minister of cooperation and development, Pieter Koornhof. He told parliament that 902 families from (Hutton) farm near Estcourt were to be moved to other farms in the district. From the Dannhauser emergency camp, 1,223 people are to be moved, to be resettled on (Flint) farm, near Newcastle. In a third area, (Hopewell) farm near Pietermaritzburg, 3,166 people are to be moved. Organiser of the Association for Rural Advancement, (Ian Donald), said this morning that the people at (Hopewell) had never been informed officially of the government's intention to move them. The planned resettlement, he said, showed once again the state's determination to consolidate KwaZulu no matter what the cost in suffering to the people concerned.

SWAZILAND

Liqoqo Returns National Authority to Queen Regent

MB191717 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The Supreme Council of State, Liqoqo, has announced that powers of signature on certain national issues are to be exercised by Her Majesty the Queen Regent Ntombi. A statement issued by the Liqoqo Secretariat today says on 24 August 1982, His Royal Highness Prince Sozisa was appointed authorized person, and this appointment was reaffirmed on 12 September 1983. It says the following day, on 13 September

1983, Her Majesty the Queen Regent Ntombi, on the advice of Liqoqo, delegated powers of signature on certain national issues to be exercised at her pleasure by the authorized person. This delegation of powers was contained in Legal Notice No 75 of 1983.

The statement says as a result of this notice, His Royal Highness Prince Sozisa was authorized over and above his other duties and under his own signature to appoint any person to hold or act in any public office, to exercise disciplinary control over persons holding or acting in such office, or to remove such persons from office after consultation with the regent. It says the powers outlined above are vested in the king, or in the absence of the king, the queen regent. Not until and unless the regent is for any reason unable to exercise the functions of her office can the authorized person exercise these powers.

The statement says on 6 March 1984, again at the insistance of Liqoqo, her majesty the queen regent revoked Legal Notice No 75 of 1983 which delegated the said powers to the authorized person. It says this was done under Legal Notice No 38 of 1984 [Mbabane Domestic Television Service in Siswati at 1630 GMT on 19 March adds: "under the heading: the Delegation of the Regent's Powers Revocation Notice of 1984"]. It says the express purpose of it is to emphasize that Legal Notice No 38 of 1984 in no way denigrates the constitutional position of the authorized person, nor does it in any way reflect on the manner in which His Royal Highness Prince Sozisa exercised these powers. It says the Liqoqo, after extensive consultation and deliberations, was satisfied to advise that time was now opportune for these powers to revert to Her Majesty the Queen Regent Ntombi.

Shabalala Replaced as Chief of Constituencies

MB200938 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 20 Mar 84 pp 1, 24

[Text] Mr Mndeni Shabalala has been removed from office as the Indvuna Yetinkhndla [chief of constituencies]. He has been replaced by his former deputy Indvuna, Chief Mfanawenkhosi Maseko, who is also a member of the supreme council of state, Liqoqo.

The appointment of Prince Mkhatshwa as a member of the Liqoqo has also been announced in a Government Gazette Extraordinary. The gazette states: "Chief Mfanawenkhosi Maseko is hereby appointed Indvuna Yetinkhundla with effect from 20 February 1984." It reads further: "The appointment of Councillor Mndeni Shabalala as Indvuna Yetinkhundla is hereby revoked." Mr Shabalala is one of the veterens of Swazi politics. He served on a committee representing Swazis in Johannesburg during the early sixties. Before independence, he attended a public administration course with Prince Mfanasibili and others in England before returning to stand for the general elections in 1967. He was an Imbokodvo National Movement candidate. He was a back bencher until he was appointed deputy minister for the then Ministry of Local Administration in 1972. He served in that position until he was appointed Indvuna of the Tinkhundla when they were established during the premiership of General Maphevu.

Chief Maseko is chief of the Lukheko area near Bhunya. He is a former police superintendent and was appointed deputy Indvuna Yetinkhundla in the late seventies and a member of the Liqoqo in 1982.

Prince Mkhatshwa is a son of the late King Sobhuza II and one of the most senior members of the royal family.

Chief Maseko, in his capacity of the Indvuna Yetinkhundla now becomes chairman of the Electoral committee. Councillor Ndleleni Gwebu is vice chairman. Other members appointed to the electoral committee are Malizandla Nhlabatsi, Councillor Raymond Dlamini, and Mr A.K. Hlophe.

The minister of foreign affairs, Mr R.V. Dlamini, is no longer a member.

ZIMBABWE

Information Minister Asks Halt to Radio Truth

MB161641 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1051 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Harare, March 16, SAPA — A Zimbabwe minister called on South Africa to stop waging a propaganda war through its "so-called Radio Truth" if it was sincere in its southern African peace initiative.

The minister of information, posts and telecommunications, Dr Nathan Shamuyarira, said in an interview published in Harare today that Zimbabwe had not so far been aware that South African was interested in peace talks. "We have had no signal so far of any relaxation in their propaganda against us and this vitriolic vituperation on Radio Truth against the government."

He said he did not know what South Africa's "peace" initiative really entailed and said Zimbabwe would have to "see whether the pacts signed with Mozambique and Angola will be implemented." Radio Truth's broadcasts were not just propaganda but direct intervention in the affairs of a neighbouring state, he said. "The South Africans broadcast a particular programme targeted at a population group inside our country for the purpose of subverting it against the government. This is abominable."

Asked whether Zimbabwe could do the same against South Africa, Dr Shamuyarira said: "There is always a chance, but we are not going to do it because, in the first place, Radio Truth has not been successful in subverting our population against us. Second, our integrity and principles do not permit us to intervene in such a crude manner in the affairs of other states. But we will continue to support liberation struggles in southern Africa and in South Africa in particular, through our domestic news service." Dr Shamuyarira said the government had not yet decided to jam the radio but the matter was under consideration.